ALAS...
I AM NO
KNIGHT...

BUT PERHAPS I CAN HELP.

YOUR MAJESTY?!

SHHH!

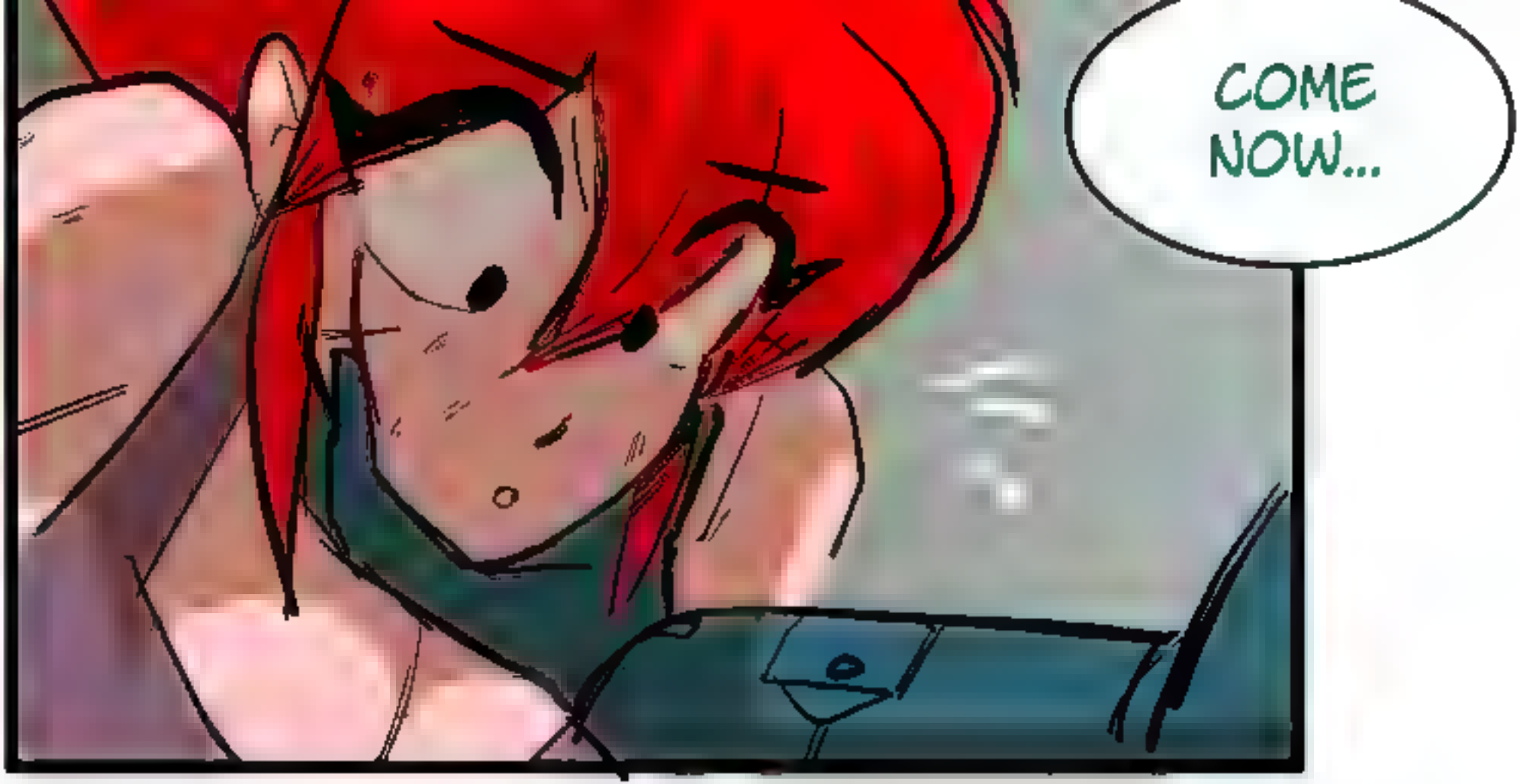
CLANG

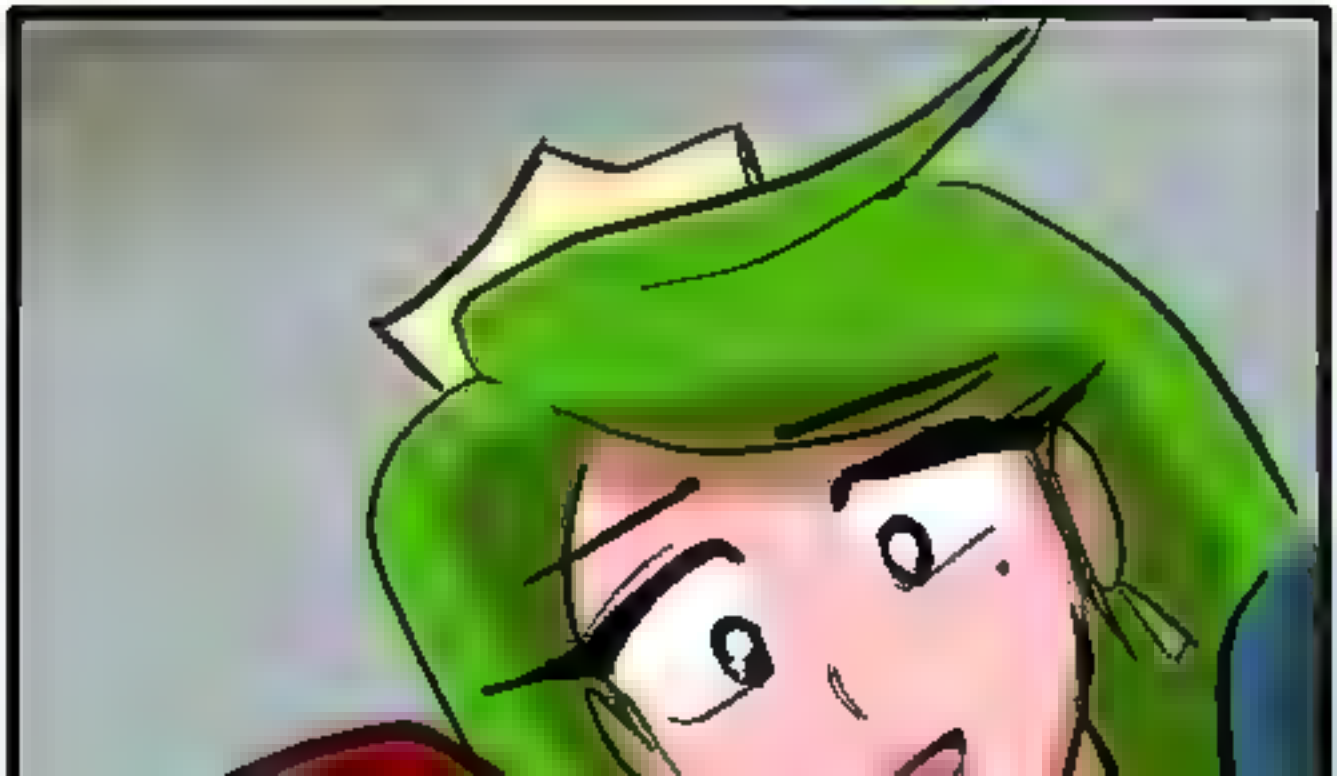
THAT IS THE QUEEN... WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?!

BOW

THERE IS NAUGHT MORE HUMILIATING THAN BOWING TO THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY TOWN'S PLIGHT...

BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE? I ALMOST KILLED THE QUEEN... I WILL BE LUCKY TO GET AWAY WITH MY HEAD INTACT AT THIS RATE.


COME NOW...



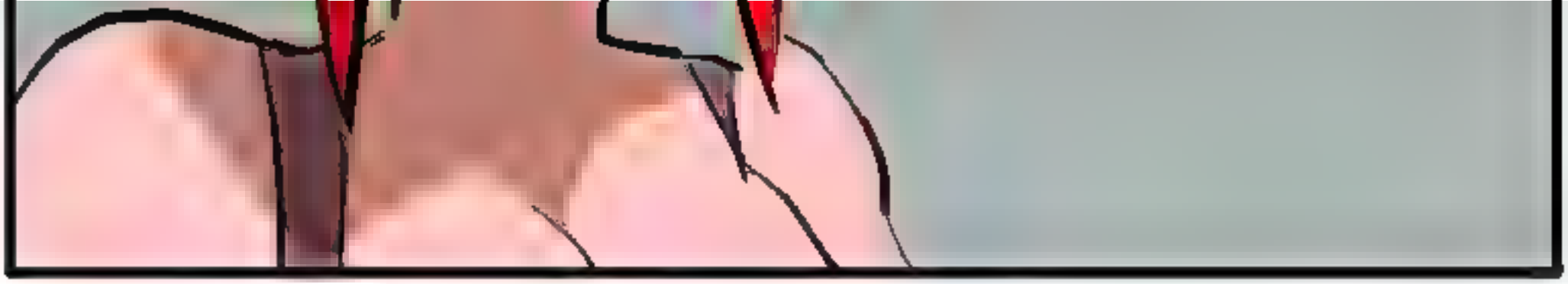
YE ARE GOING TO EXPOSE MY DISGUISE.

UP WE GO! MUCH BETTER.
LIFT

NOW...
THEN... YE CAN ADDRESS ME AS AMELIA.

WHAT MIGHT YE BE CALLED?

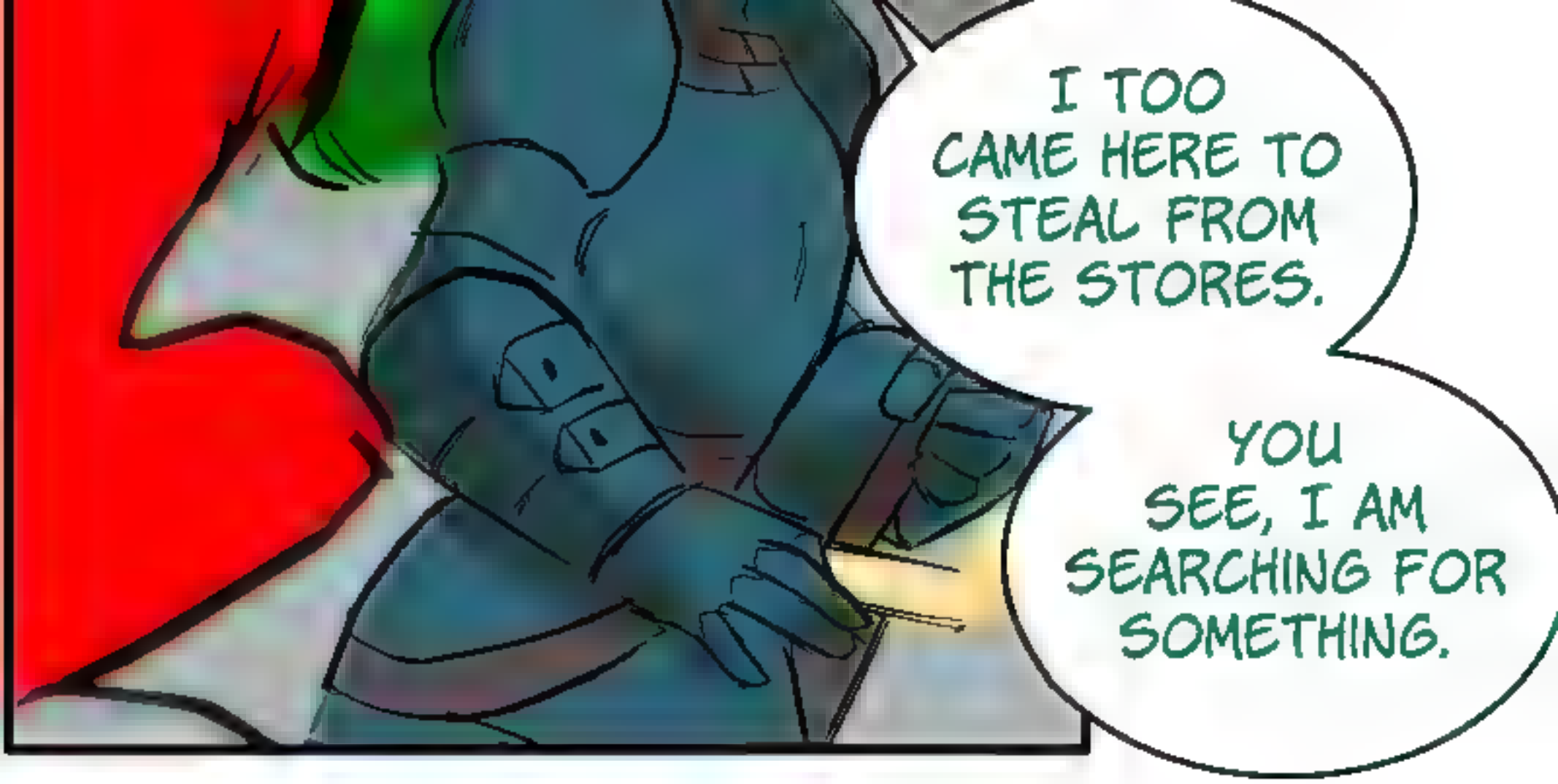
...VICTORIA.



AH...
FROM THE
LATIN WORD
FOR 'VICTORY'.

SUCH A STRONG AND BEAUTIFUL NAME.
IT SUITS YOU!

I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE, VICTORIA.


I TOO CAME HERE TO STEAL FROM THE STORES.
YOU SEE, I AM SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.

I BELIEVE I WILL FIND IT IN ONE OF THE TOWNS ON THE BORDERS OF OUR KINGDOM.

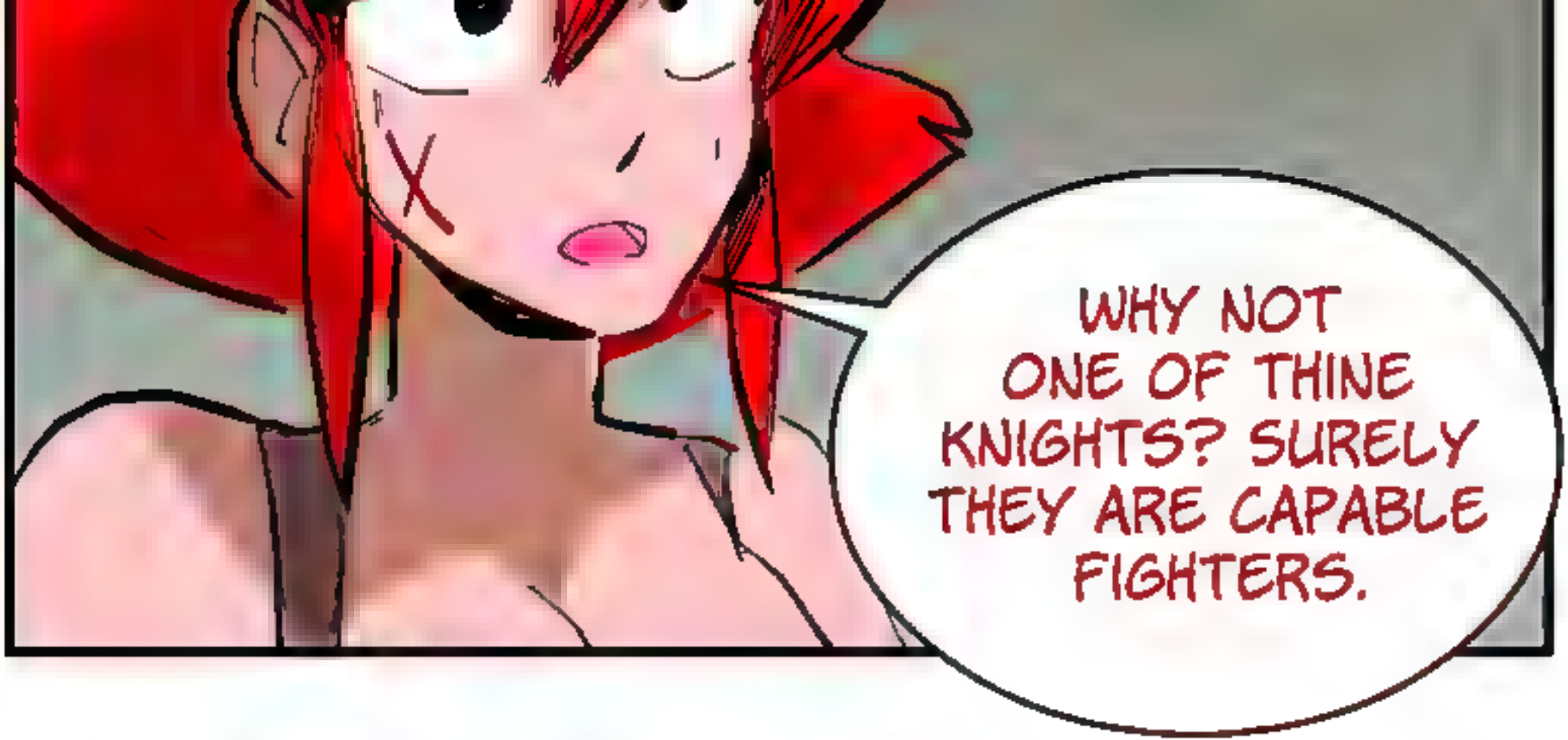
I HAD PLANNED TO DISGUISE MYSELF AS A KNIGHT AND DEFEND MYSELF ON THE ROAD.

BUT
PERHAPS I
AM NOT AS SKILLED
WITH A SWORDS AS
I HAD IMAGINED.

BUT YE ARE QUITE AN ADEPT SWORDSWOMAN! I WOULD REQUEST THY COMPANY ON MY JOURNEY.

M-ME?!

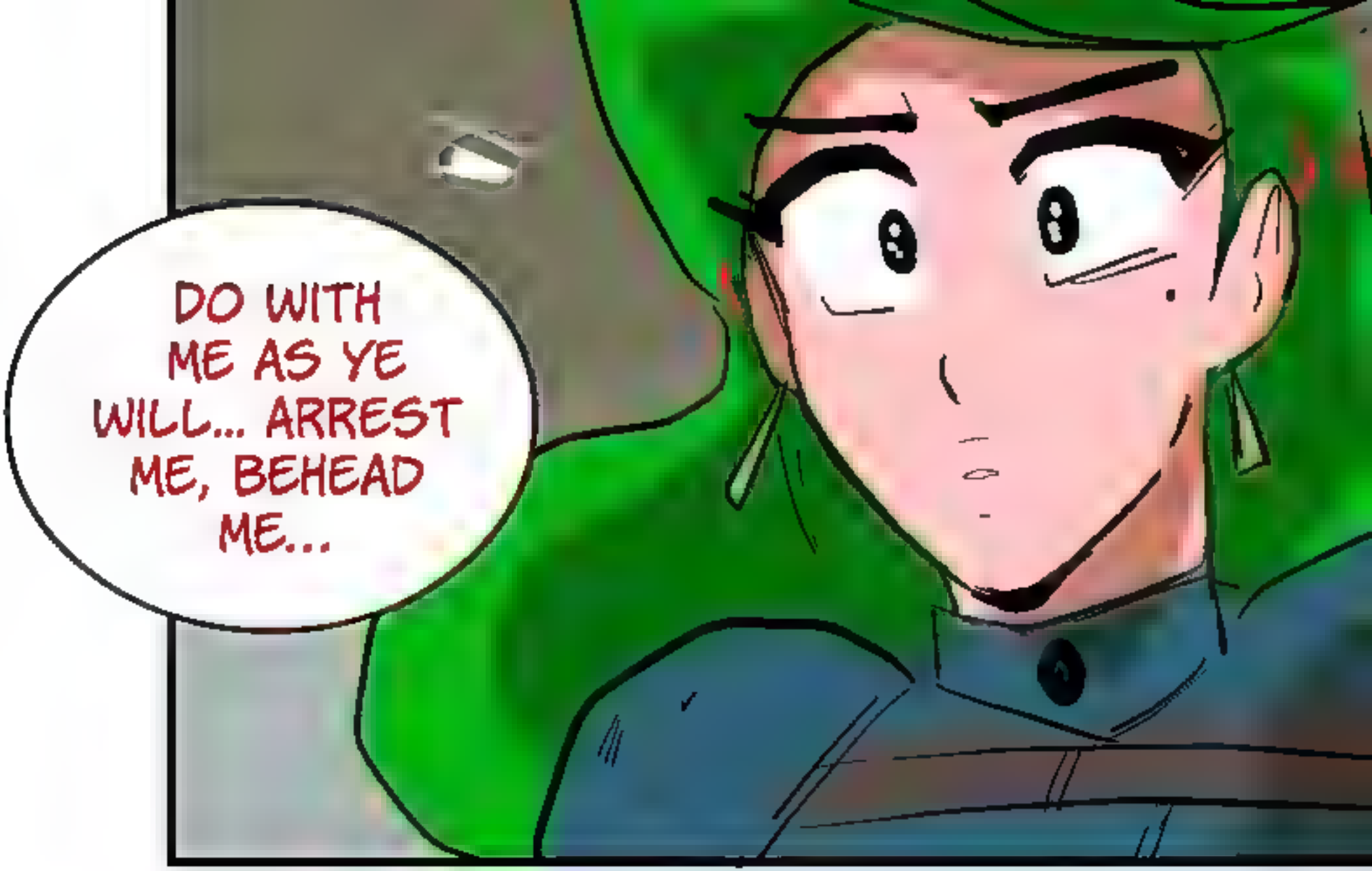
TOGETHER, I AM SURE WE WILL BE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH!


WHY NOT ONE OF THINE KNIGHTS? SURELY THEY ARE CAPABLE FIGHTERS.

WOULD
THAT I COULD!
BUT THEY WOULD
ALL SEEK TO STOP
ME... AND I MUST
DO THIS!

I GET THE SENSE THAT YE ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR A GOOD CAUSE... LET US HELP EACHOTHER!

...I
REFUSE.


DO WITH ME AS YE WILL... ARREST ME, BEHEAD ME...

BUT I
CAN NOT IN GOOD
CONSCIENCE HELP
THE ONE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE SUFFERING OF
MY FAMILY AND
NEIGHBORS.

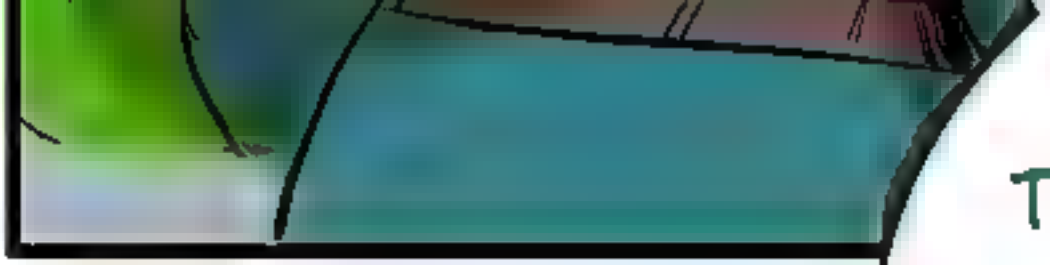
TURN

WAIT!
I KNOW HOW TO HELP THY TOWN!

YE LOST THY FATHER TO TRAGEDY... I KNOW THAT LOSS AS WELL.

MORE
AND MORE
MISERY BEFALLS
OUR KINGDOM WITH
EVERY PASSING
YEAR.

PEOPLE BLAME THE CROWN. BUT I TOO WANT OUR KINGDOM TO KNOW PEACE AND PLENTY!



BEFORE HE DIED, MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT A CURSE LAY UPON THIS LAND. HE SPENT HIS LIFE IN SEARCH OF A WAY TO LIFT IT... I THINK I HAVE FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR.

ACCOMPANY ME ON THIS JOURNEY... AND I SHALL RETURN THE FAVOR BY SENDING ALL OF THE SUPPLIES THAT YOUR TOWN NEEDS.

SHE IS NOT AT ALL HOW I IMAGINED...

EVEN THOUGH I AM HER SUBJECT, SHE HAS NOT ONCE ORDERED ME TO DO ANYTHING... SHE IS ASKING FOR MY HELP.

BUT IS SHE TRUSTWORTHY? SHE DOES SEEM TO SINCERELY CARE FOR HER KINGDOM...

VERY WELL!
BUT YE MUST
FREE MY FRIENDS
AS WELL!

WE HAVE A DEAL.

STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

CHAPTER 121

"COCKROACH KING"

WE HAVE ARRIVED! AFTER ONLY A TWO DAY JOURNEY... WE MADE EXCELLENT TIME!
I COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YE,

VICTORIA!

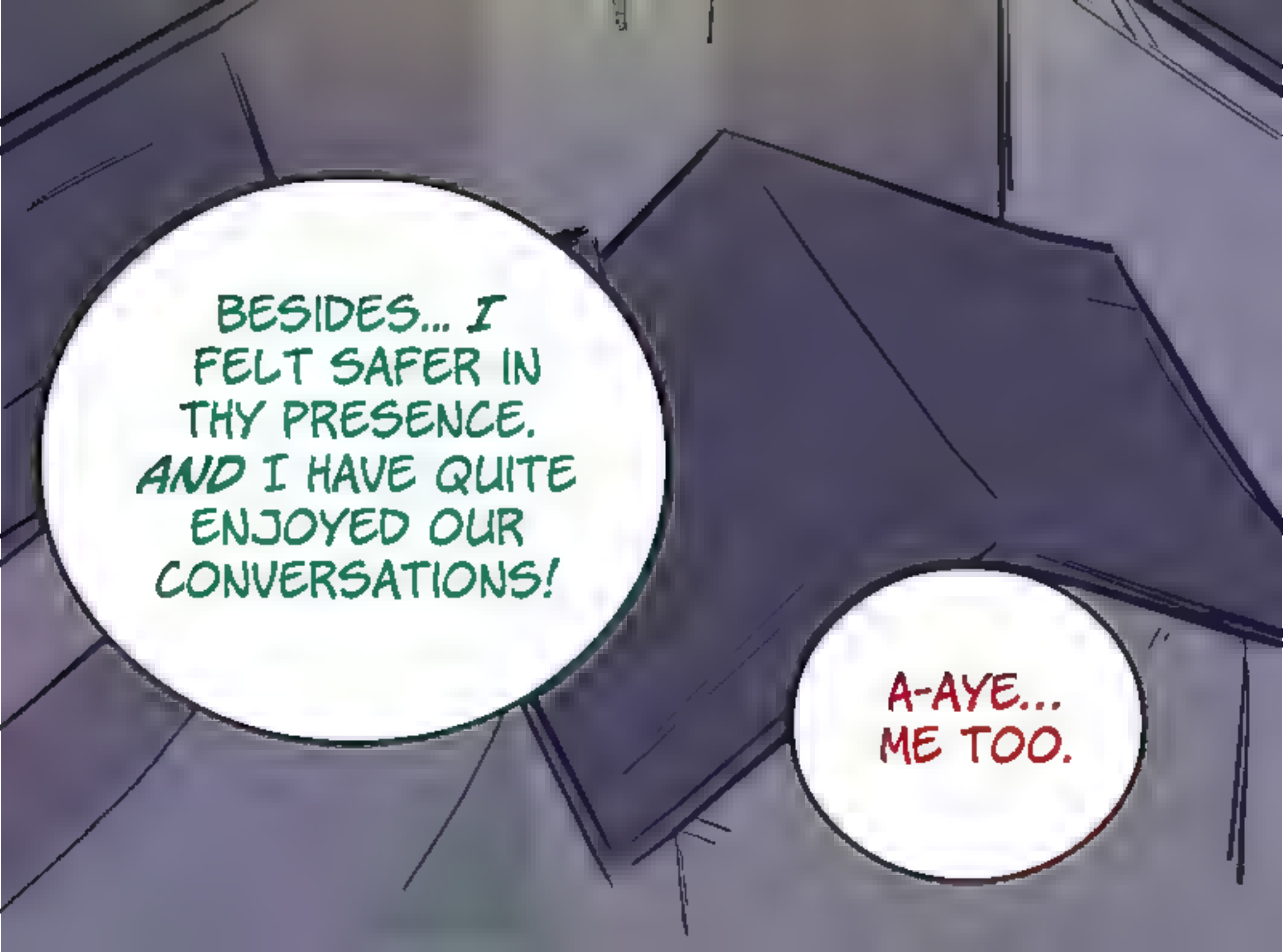
THE ROAD WAS... RATHER UNEVENTFUL.

PRECISELY!
PEOPLE TOOK ONE LOOK AT YOU BY MY SIDE AND KNEW BETTER THAN TO GIVE US ANY TROUBLE.

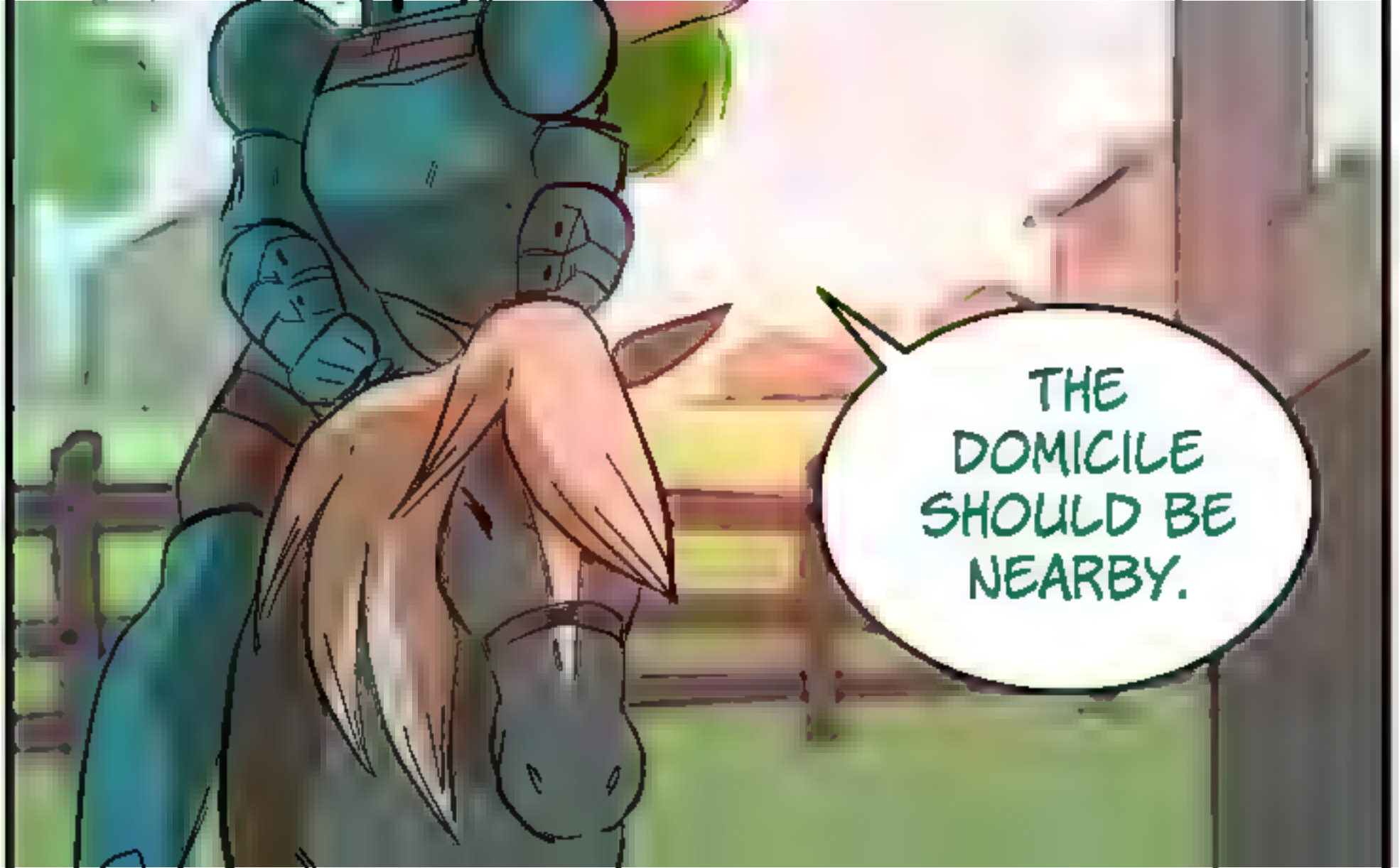
...YE ARE SAYING I LOOK FRIGHTENING?

TIS A COMPLIMENT!
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT A PRETTY FACE

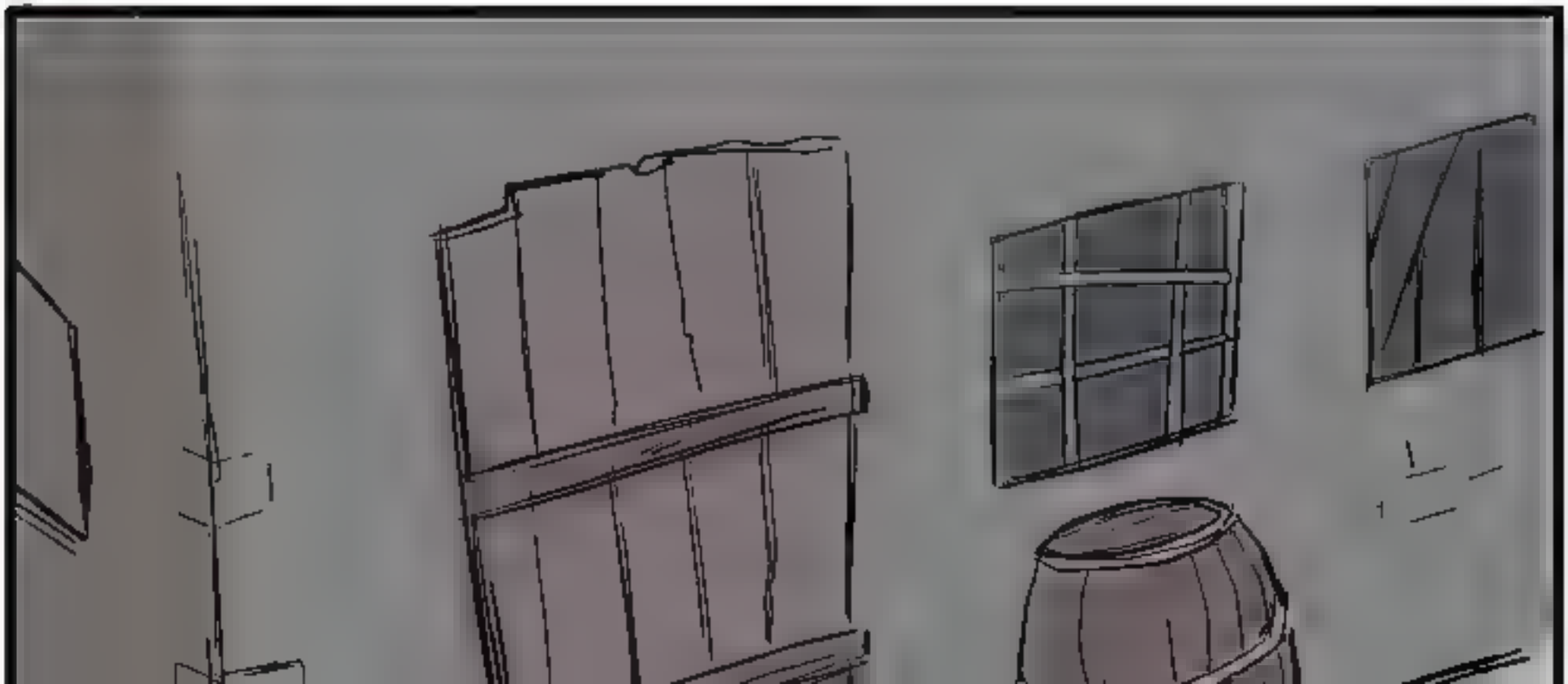
IS HIDING UNDER
THAT HELMET.


BESIDES... I FELT SAFER IN THY PRESENCE. AND I HAVE QUITE ENJOYED OUR CONVERSATIONS!
A-AYE... ME TOO.

VICTORIA, LOOK! THERE IS THE CLOCK TOWER!


THE DOMICILE SHOULD BE NEARBY.

HERE
IT IS!



I MUST
GO IN ALONE.
PLEASE DO NOT LET
ANYONE APPROACH
THE HOUSE UNTIL I
AM DONE.

...ARE YE CERTAIN THAT THIS IS WISE?

THIS PLACE IS UNSETTLING. WHAT IF SOMETHING ILL BEFALLS YE?

I WILL BE FINE!

...BUT IT IS NICE TO KNOW YE WOULD MISS ME!

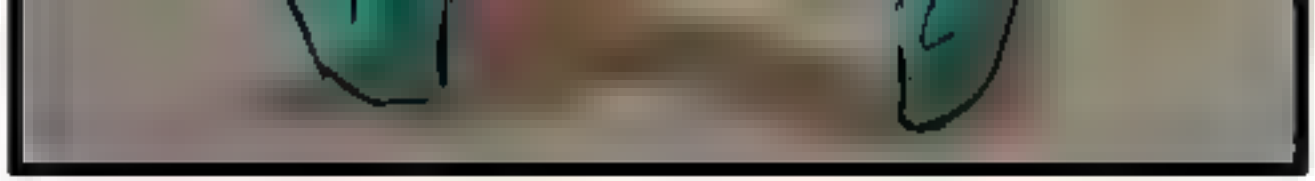
N-NAY! I JUST WANT YE TO KEEP THY END OF THE BARGAIN!

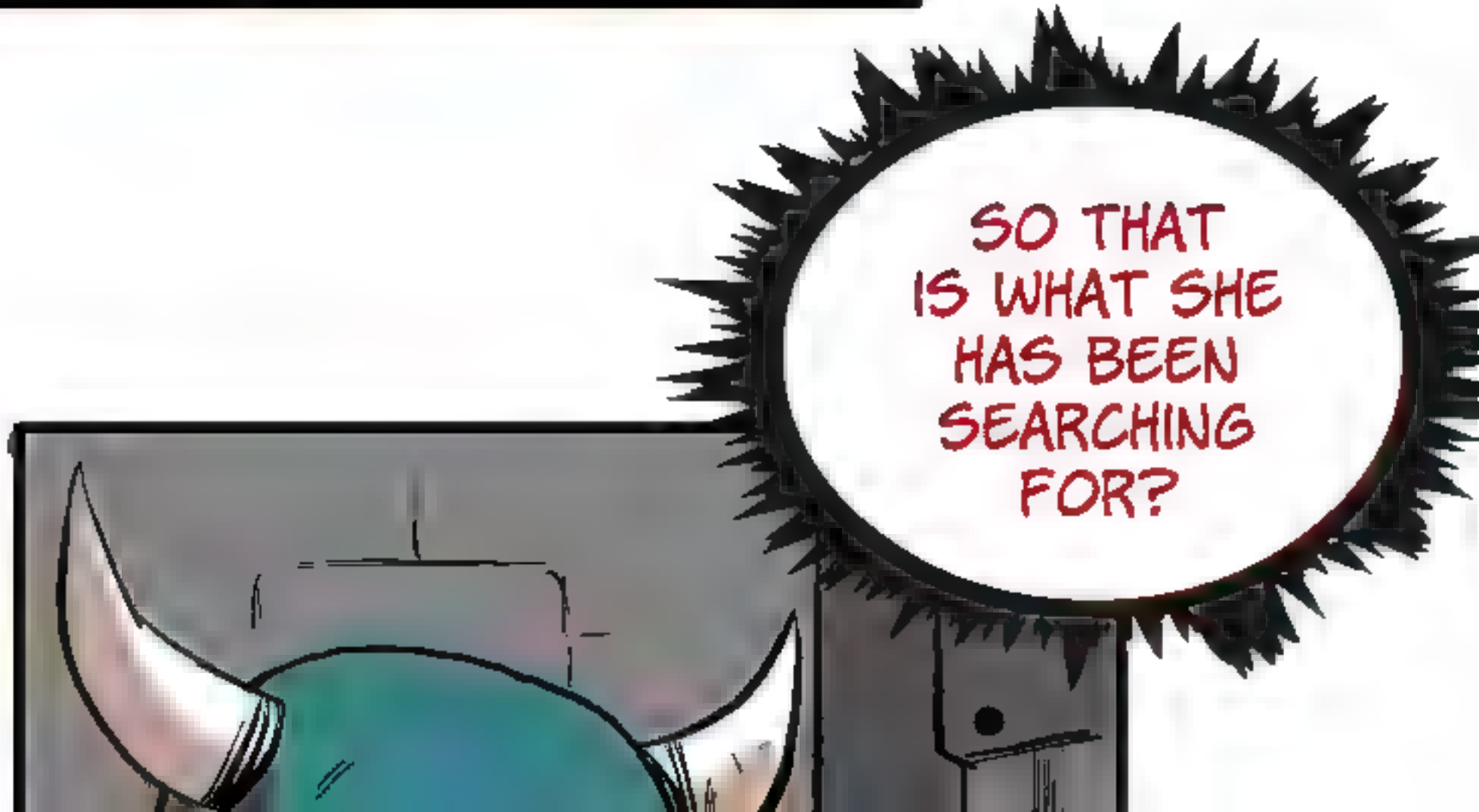
I AM GOING TO SPEAK WITH THE SORCERER WHO LIVES HERE. I PROMISE TO RETURN SHORTLY.

CREAK

A SORCERER?

TAK
TAK
TAK




SO THAT IS WHAT SHE HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR?

YOUR MAJESTY... WHY NOT SEND A RAVEN?

I HAD TO SEE FOR MYSELF... CAN YE HELP?

LET ME
SHOW YOU.

CHRIS

WHAT WAS THAT!?

NAME
THY PRICE.

I WILL REQUIRE INFORMATION...
YE SHALL HAVE IT.

THIS WILL BE NO SIMPLE MATTER... TO LIFT A CURSE REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF SACRIFICE.

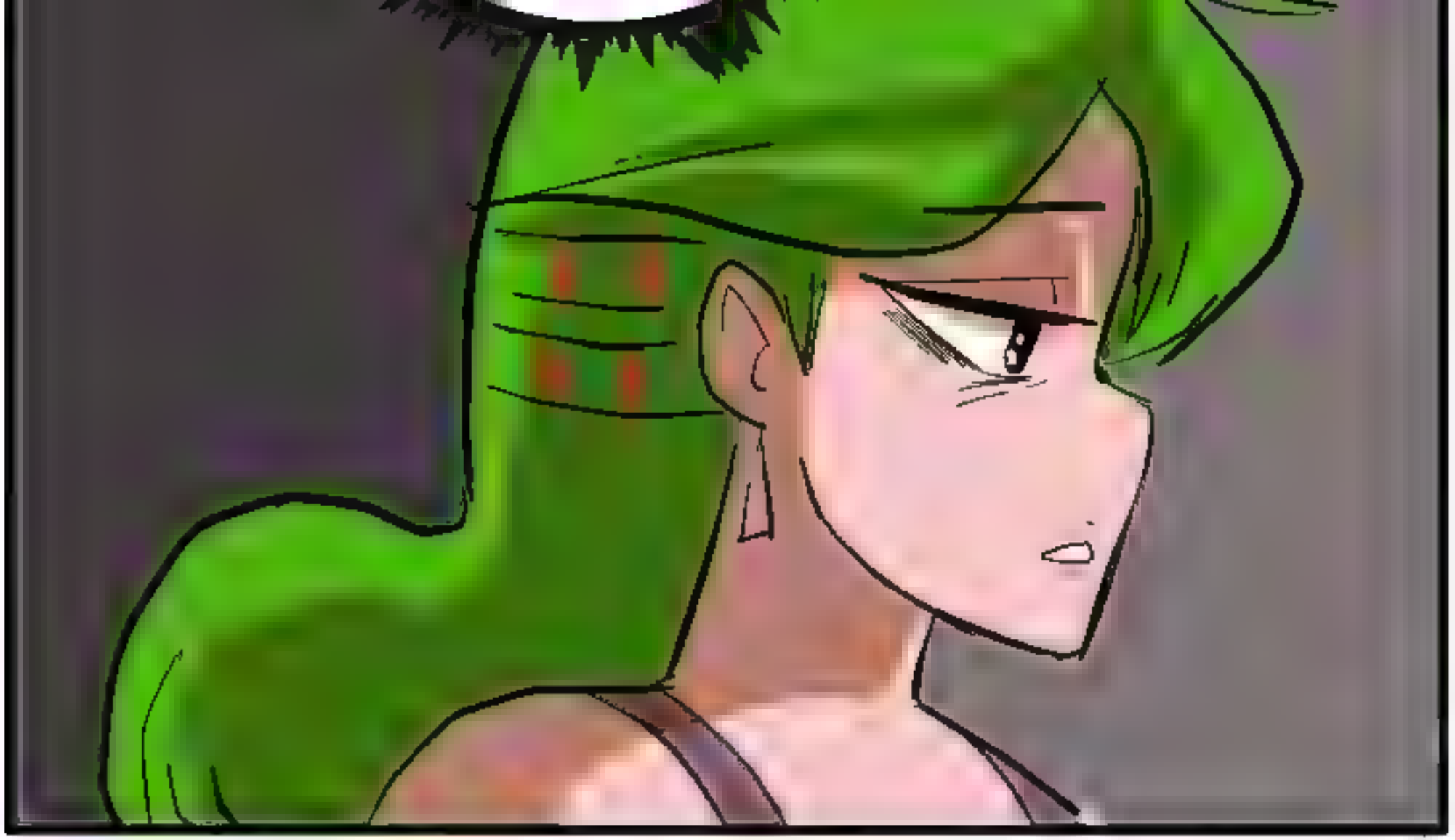
WHATEVER SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE, THEY SHOULD BE MINE.

YOU HAD BEST TAKE PRECAUTIONS.

WHAT IS
SHE GETTING
HERSELF INTO?
I SHOULD
HAVE GONE

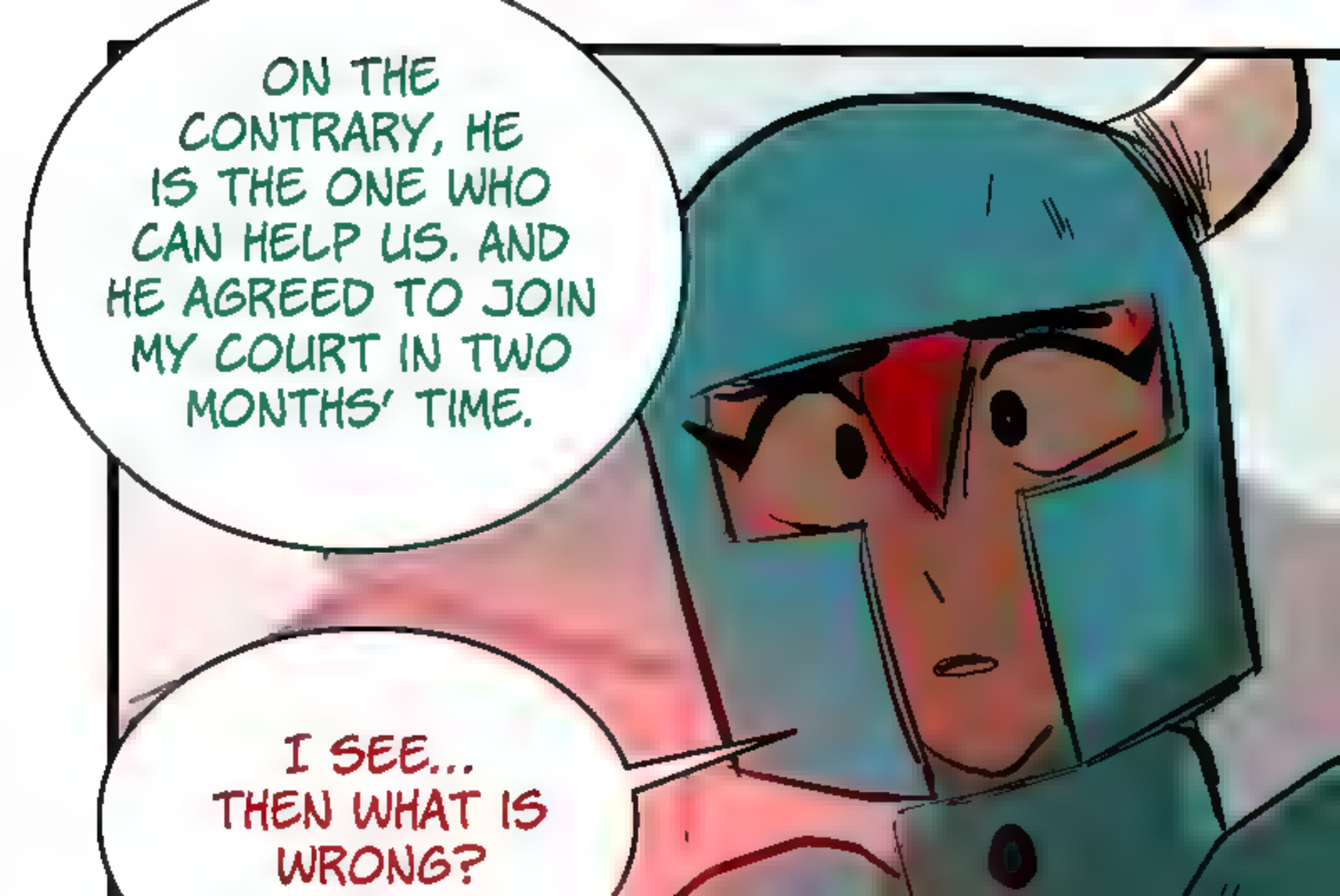
WITH—

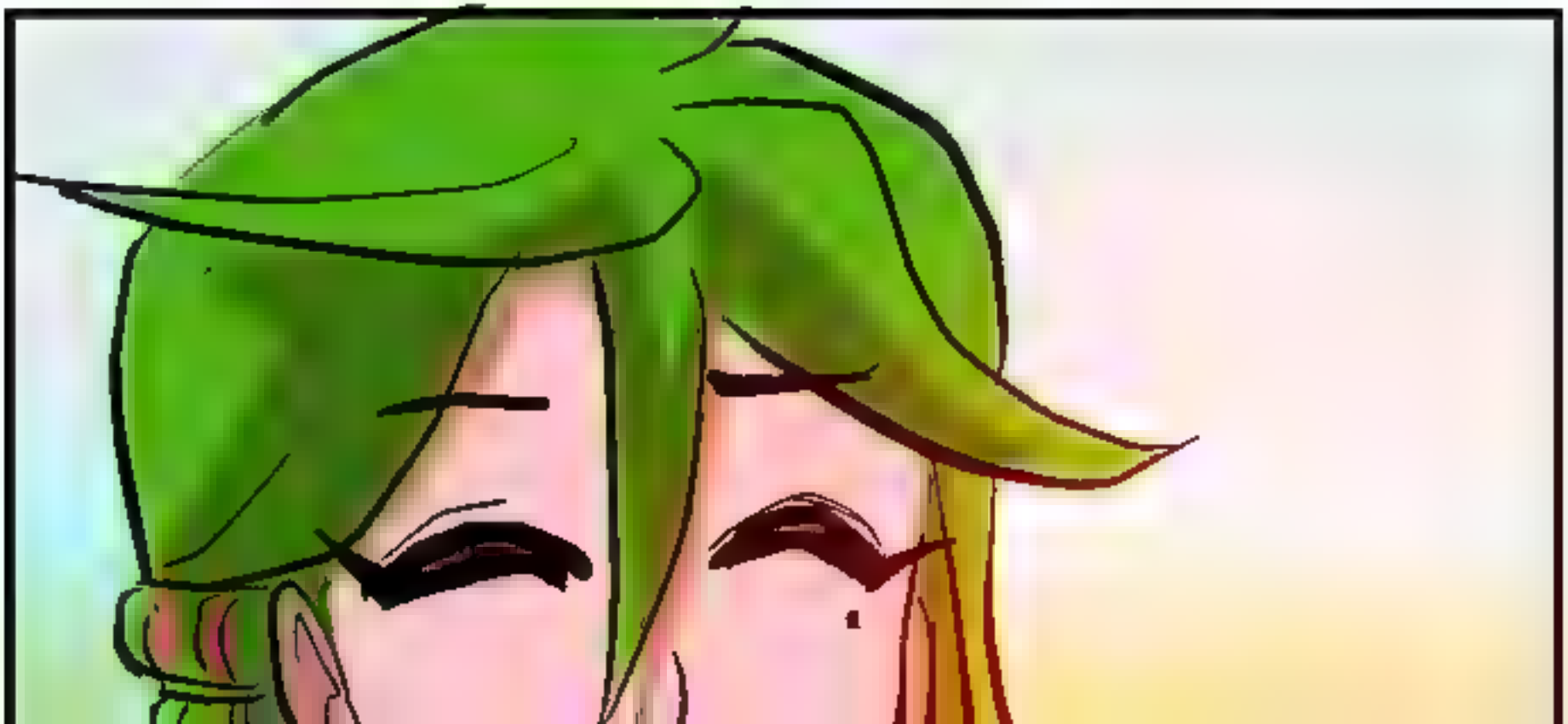
SHE LOOKS SO TIRED...

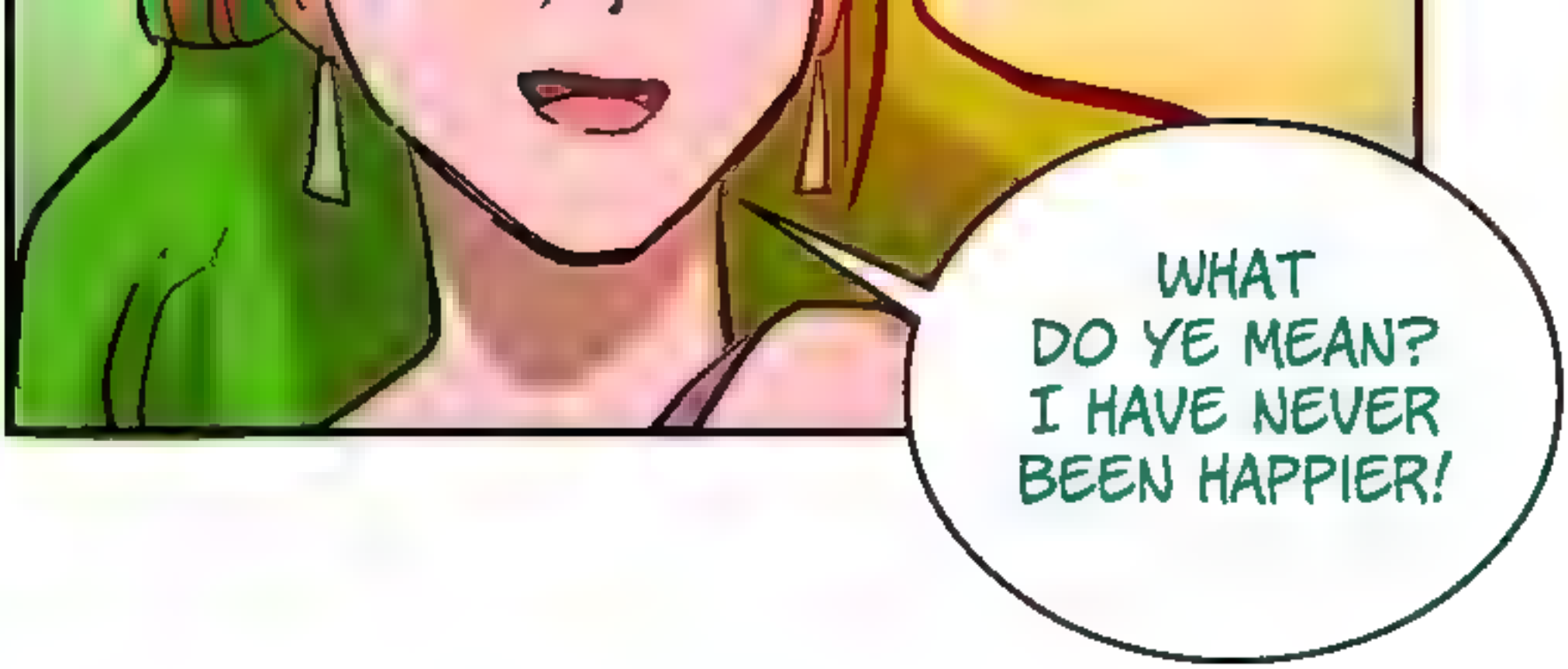


YOUR MAJEST-
AMELIA...
VICTORIA!
I DID NOT SEE YE STANDING THERE...

...WAS IT NOT WHAT YE WERE LOOKING FOR?


ON THE CONTRARY, HE IS THE ONE WHO CAN HELP US. AND HE AGREED TO JOIN MY COURT IN TWO MONTHS' TIME.
I SEE... THEN WHAT IS WRONG?

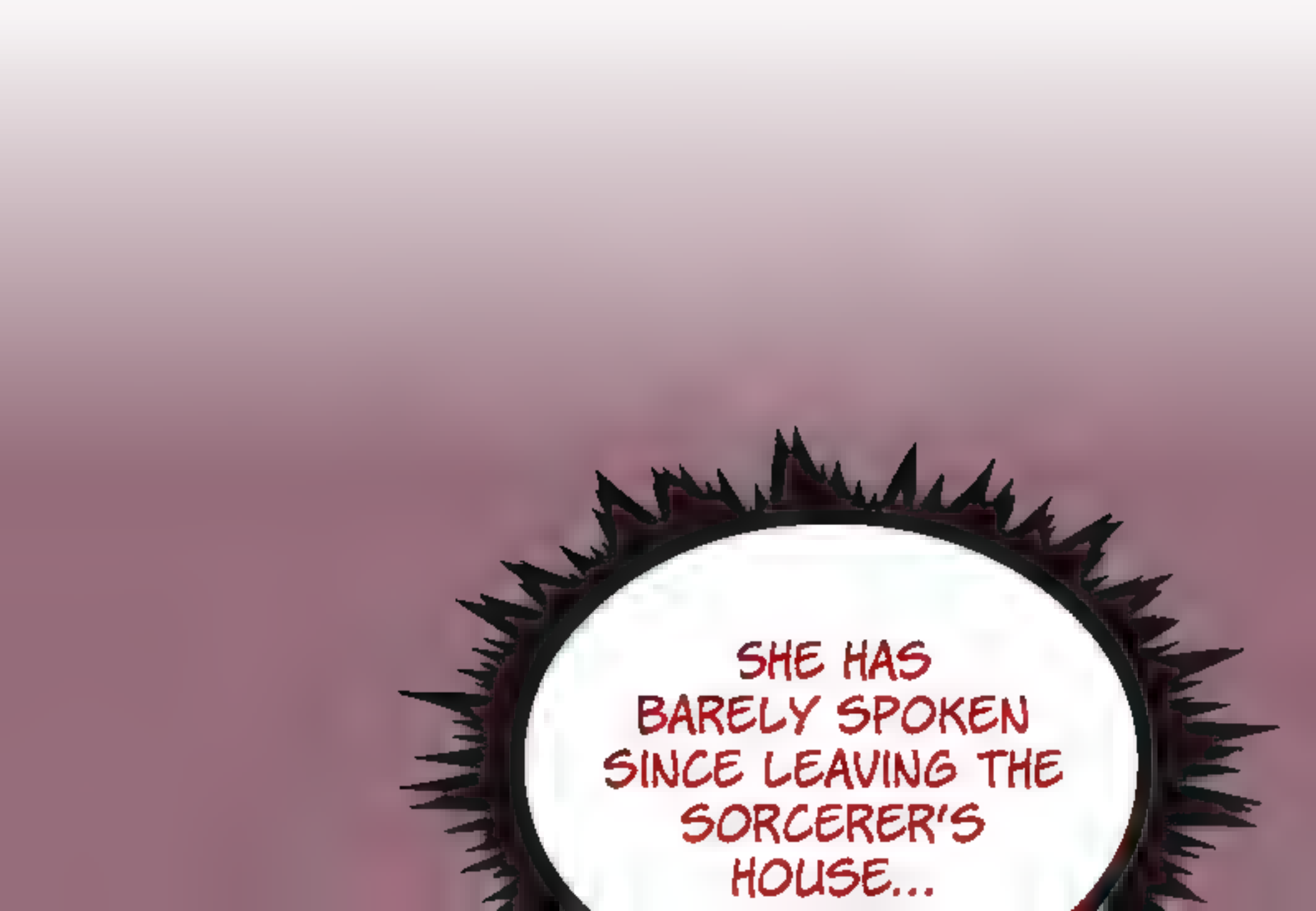


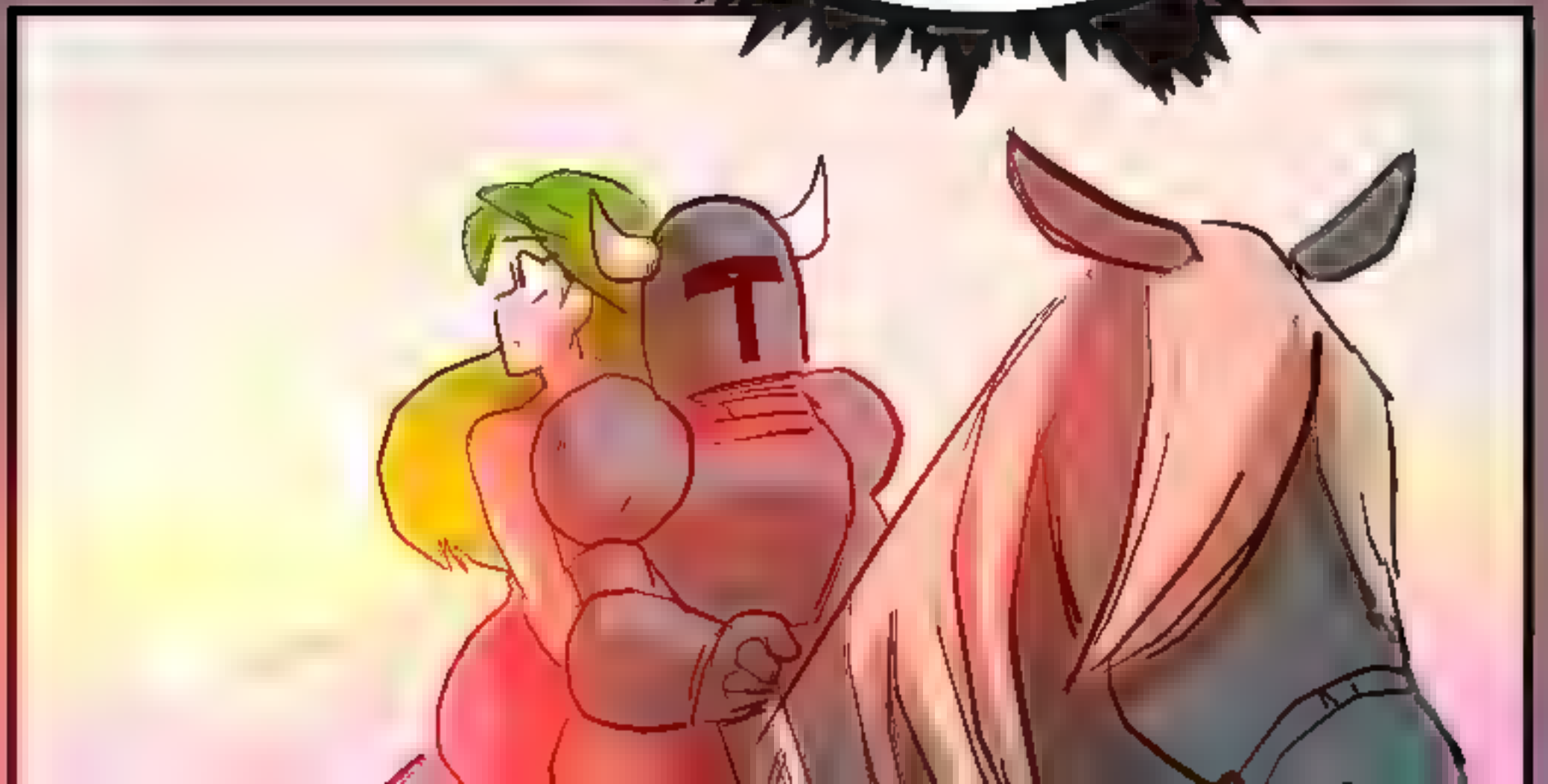

WHAT DO YE MEAN? I HAVE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER!

HEAVENS,
ARE YE FEELING
HUNGRY? I CERTAINLY
AM. HOW ABOUT I
TREAT US TO A

HEAD BACK?

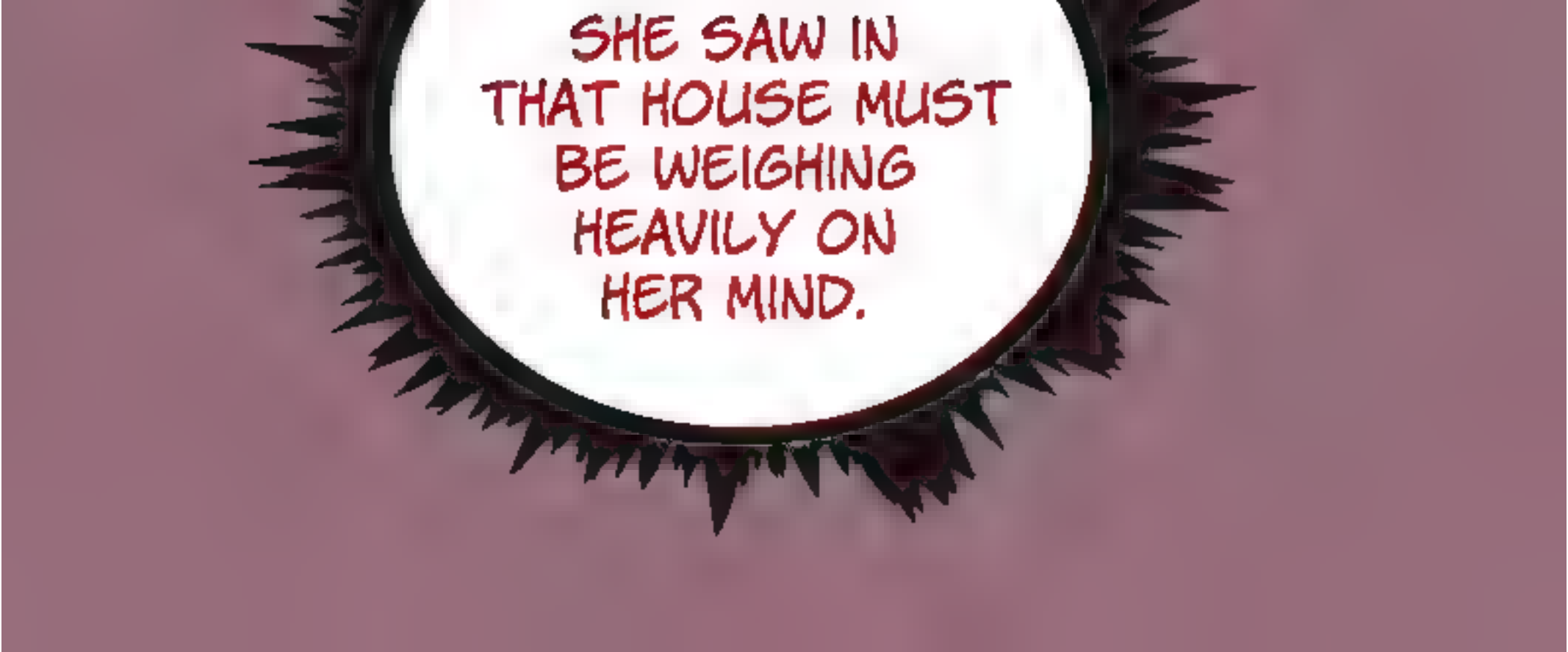
ER...
ALRIGHT.

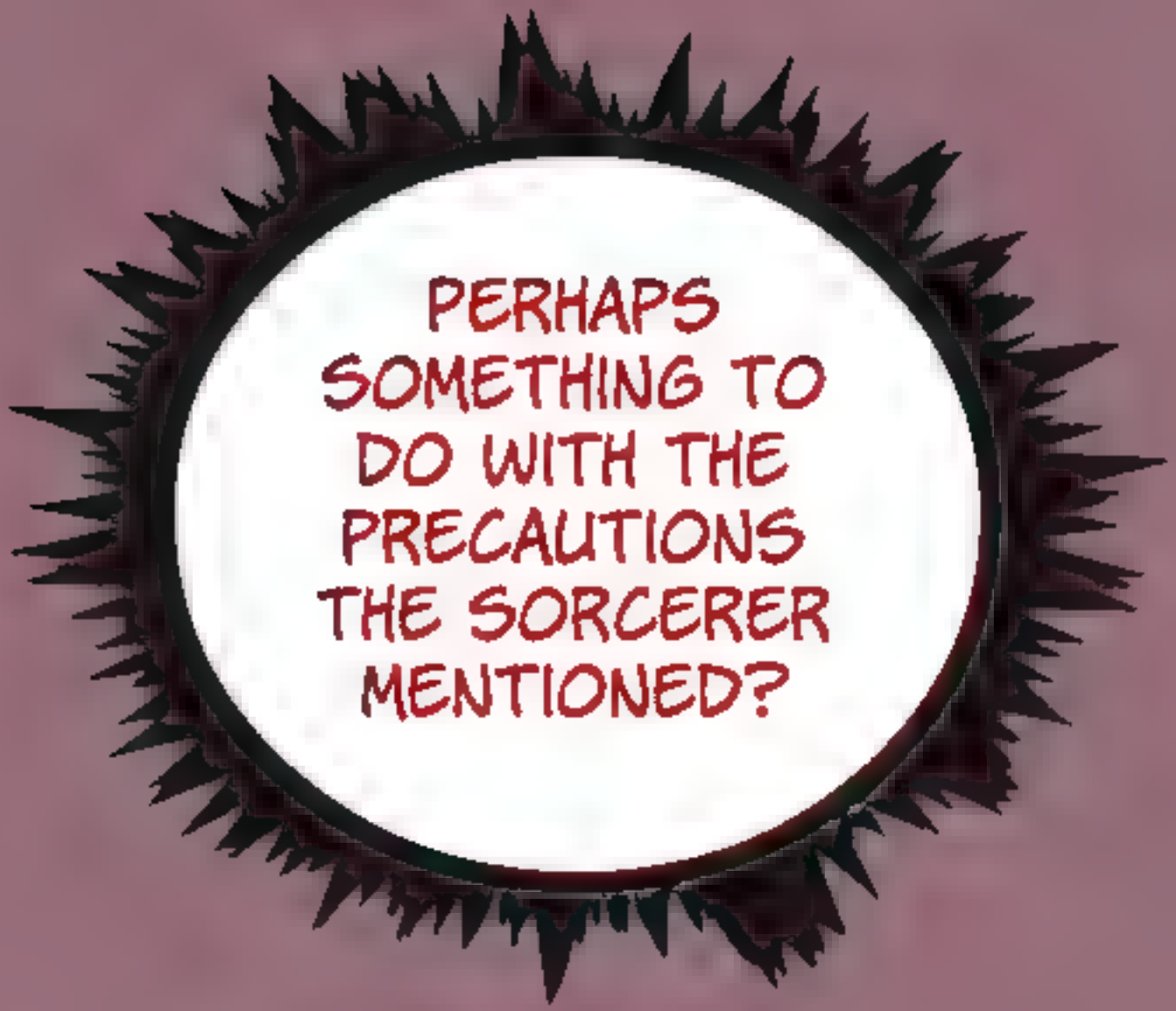

SHE HAS
BARELY SPOKEN
SINCE LEAVING THE
SORCERER'S
HOUSE...

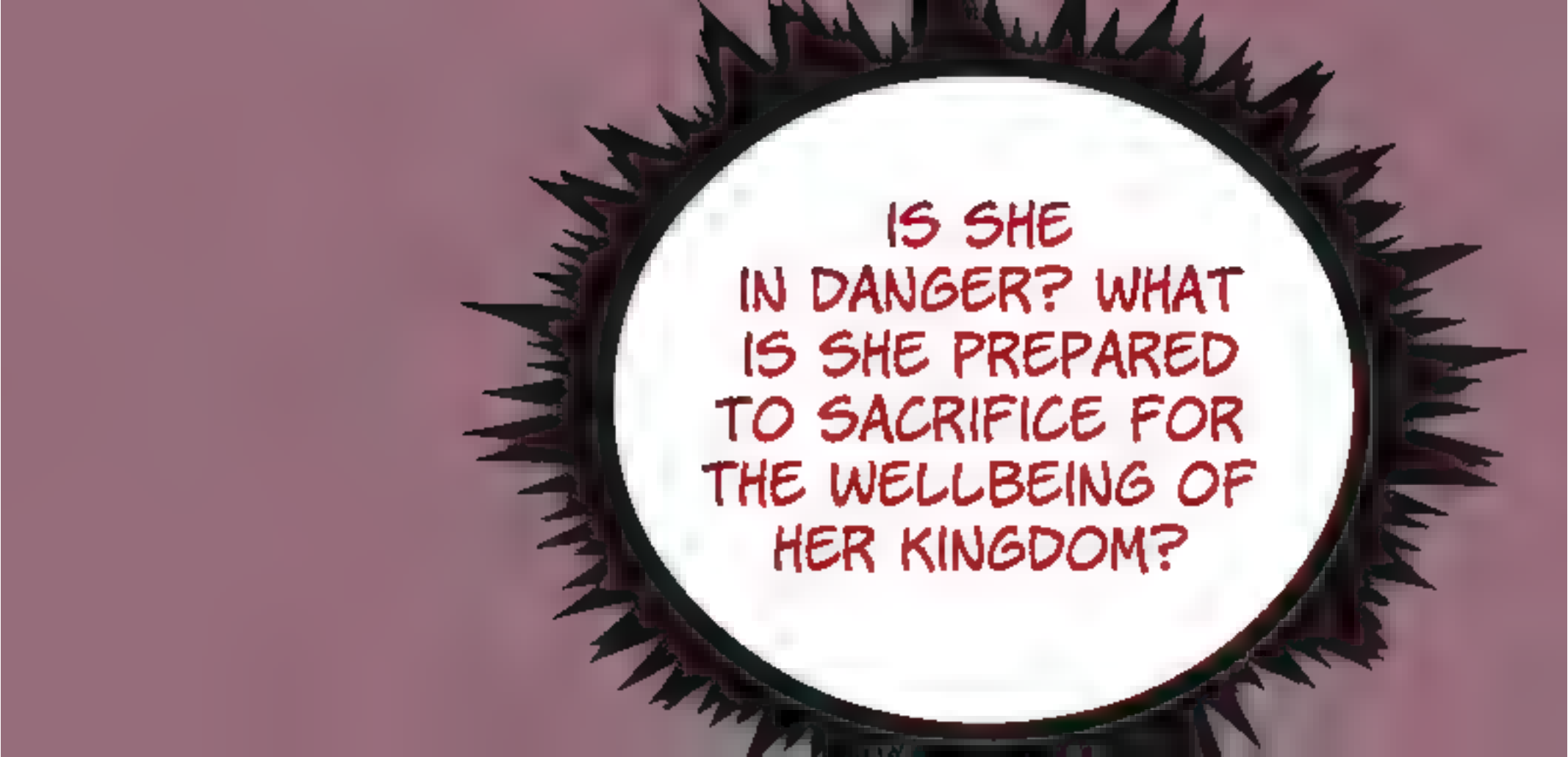


QUITE
A DIFFERENCE FROM
THE FIRST HALF OF
OUR JOURNEY

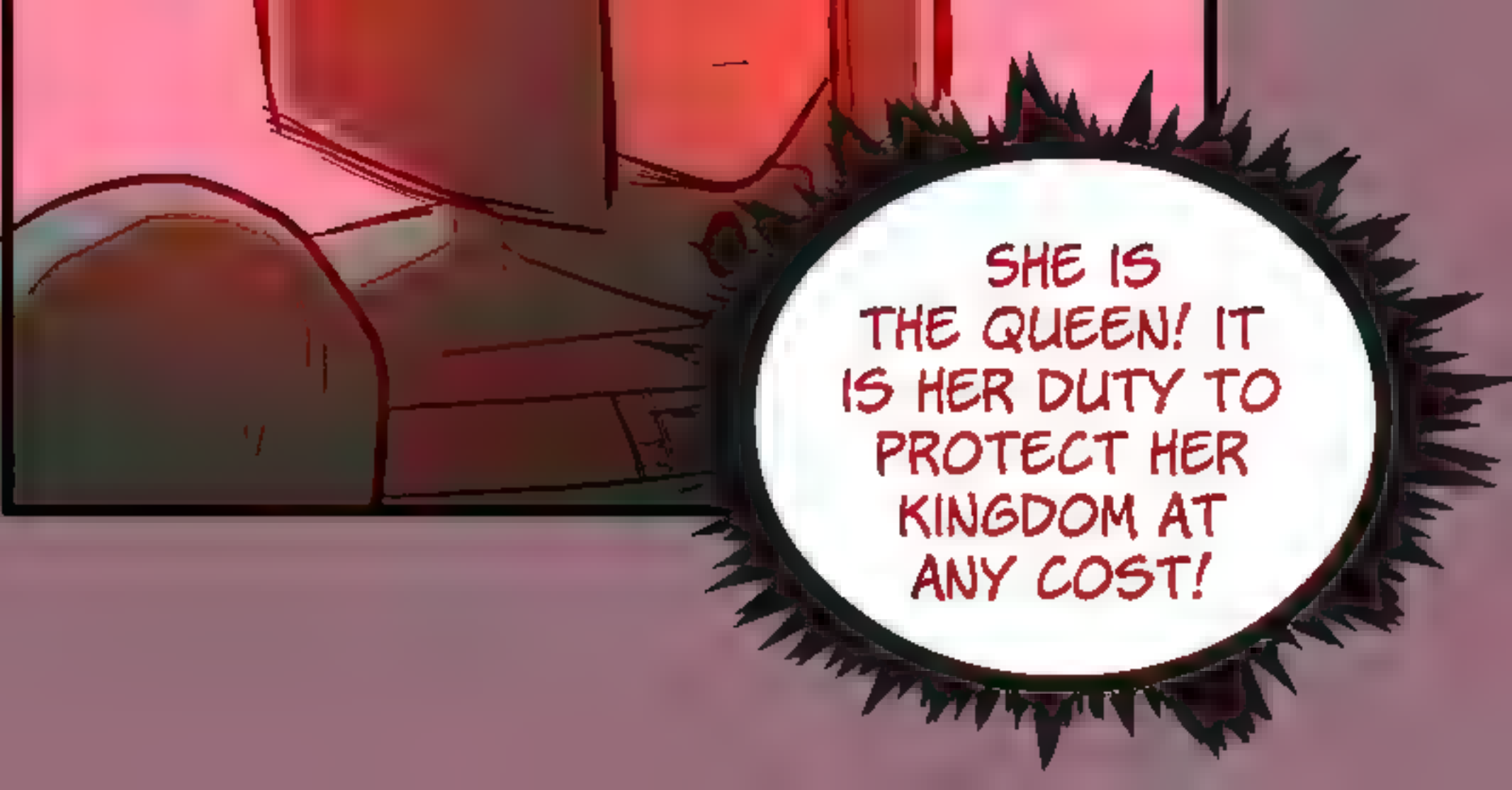
WHATEVER


SHE SAW IN
THAT HOUSE MUST
BE WEIGHING
HEAVILY ON
HER MIND.


PERHAPS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE PRECAUTIONS THE SORCERER MENTIONED?


IS SHE
IN DANGER? WHAT
IS SHE PREPARED
TO SACRIFICE FOR
THE WELLBEING OF
HER KINGDOM?

... AND WHY CAN I NOT STAND THE THOUGHT OF IT?

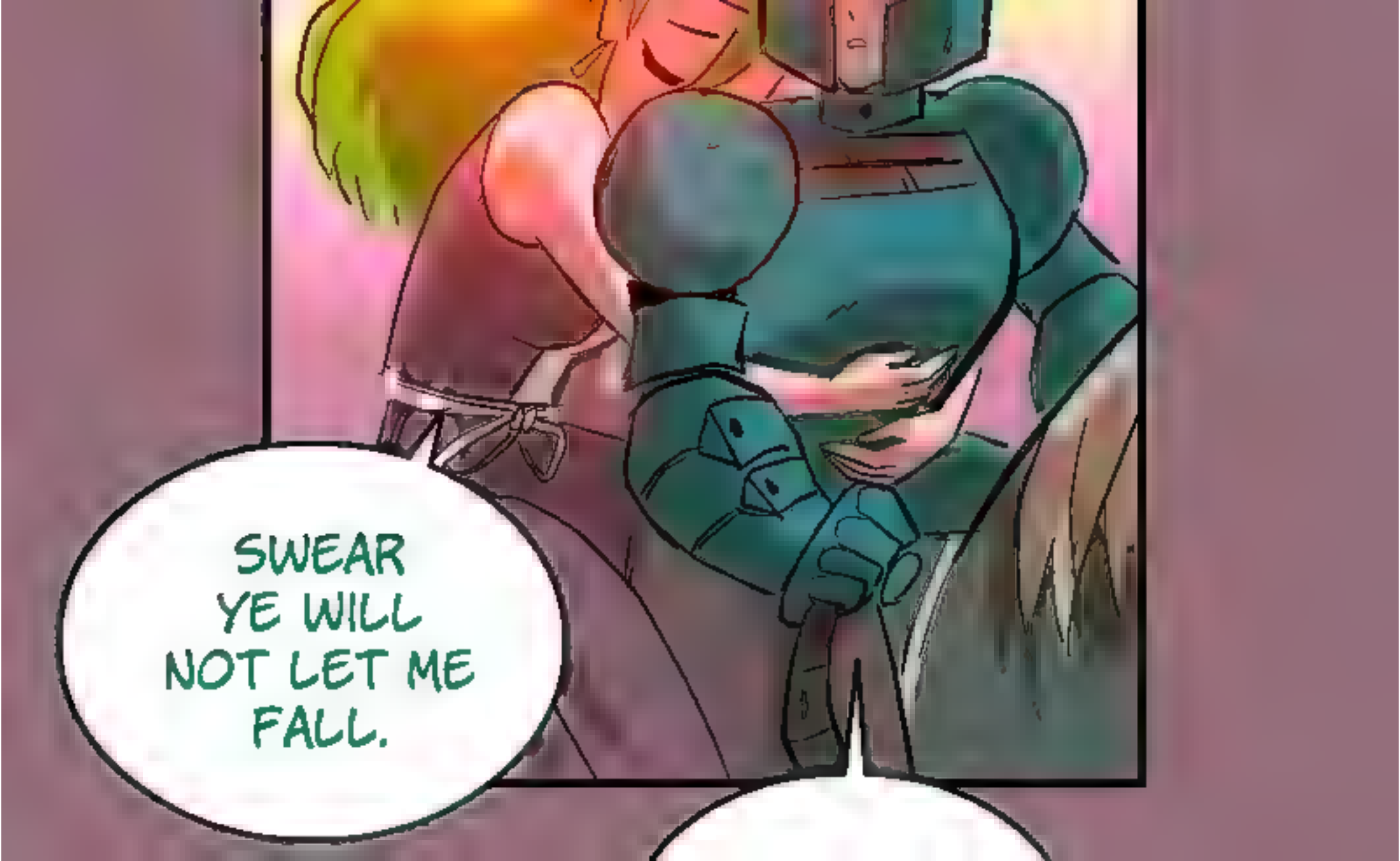

SHE IS THE QUEEN! IT IS HER DUTY TO PROTECT HER KINGDOM AT ANY COST!

JUST AS IT
IS MY DUTY
TO HELP MY
TOWN...

THEY ARE STILL WAITING ON OUR RETURN WITH FOOD AND SUPPLIES.

I CAN
NOT LET MYSELF
BE DISTRACTED
BY THE TROUBLES
OF OTHERS.

MY EYES REFUSE TO STAY OPEN, VICTORIA.
LEAN


SWEAR YE WILL NOT LET ME FALL.

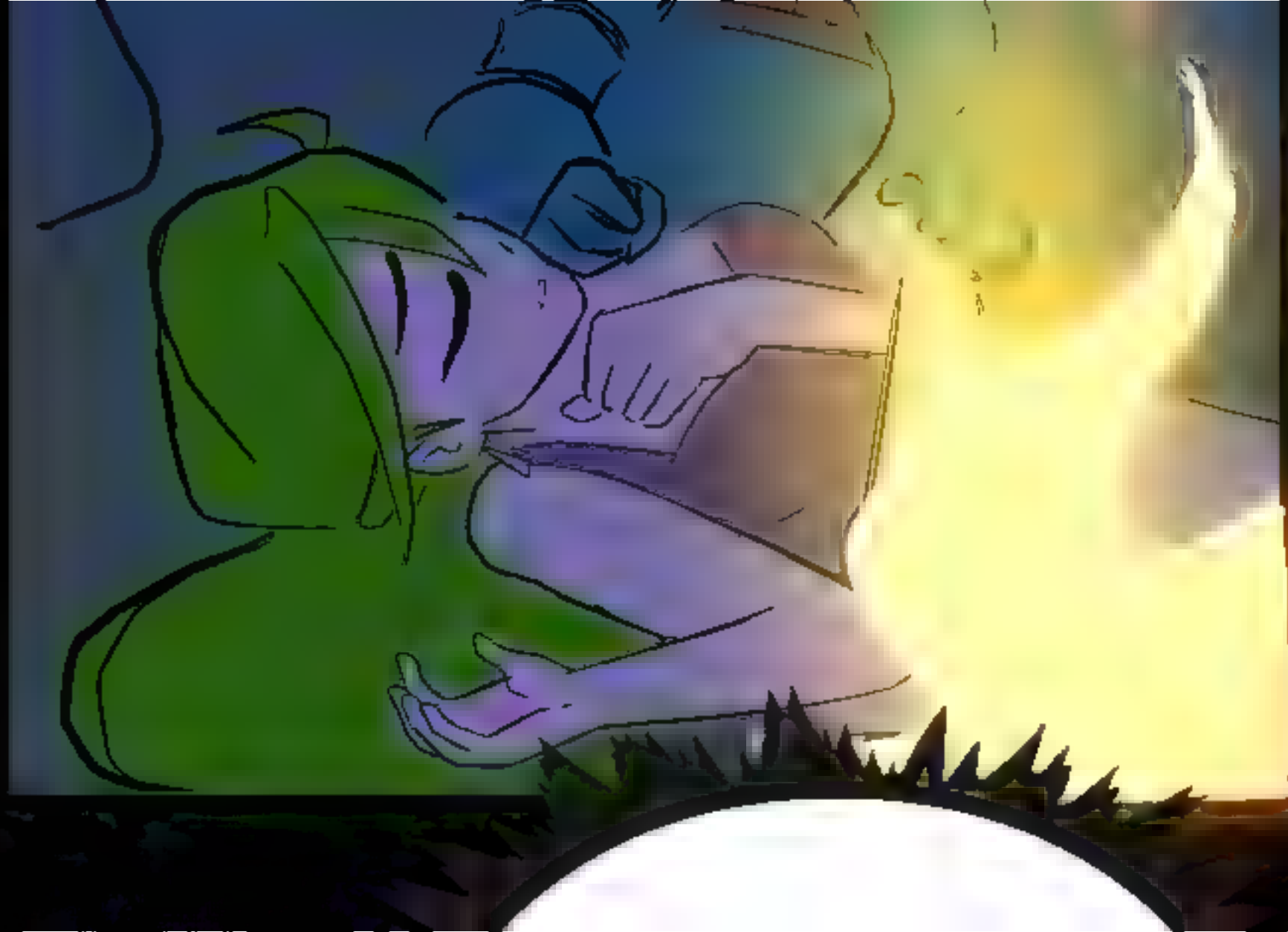
Y-YE HAVE MY WORD!

WE ARE STILL ABOUT A HALF DAY'S RIDE TO THE CASTLE.

IT
IS GETTING
DARK...PERHAPS WE
SHOULD STOP FOR
THE NIGHT.

WE SHOULD BE SAFE HERE. THE CLOSEST TOWN IS MILES AWAY AND THE ROCKS WILL HIDE US FROM THE ROAD.

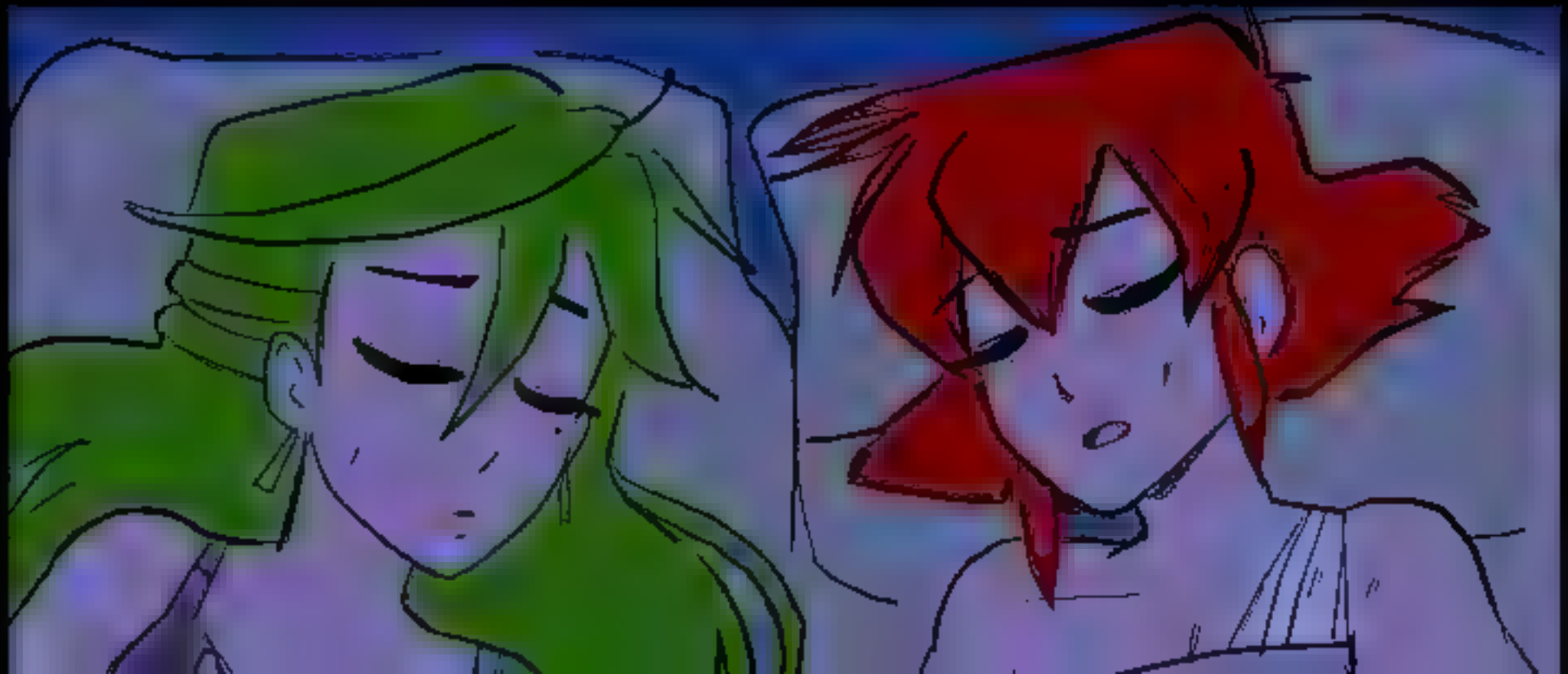
PLEASE...
DO NOT LEAVE
ME...



IS SHE TALKING TO ME? NO, TWAS PROBABLY ONLY A DREAM...

SO WHY IS MY HEART BREAKING?

IT MATTERS NOT... THIS WILL ALL BE OVER TOMORROW.

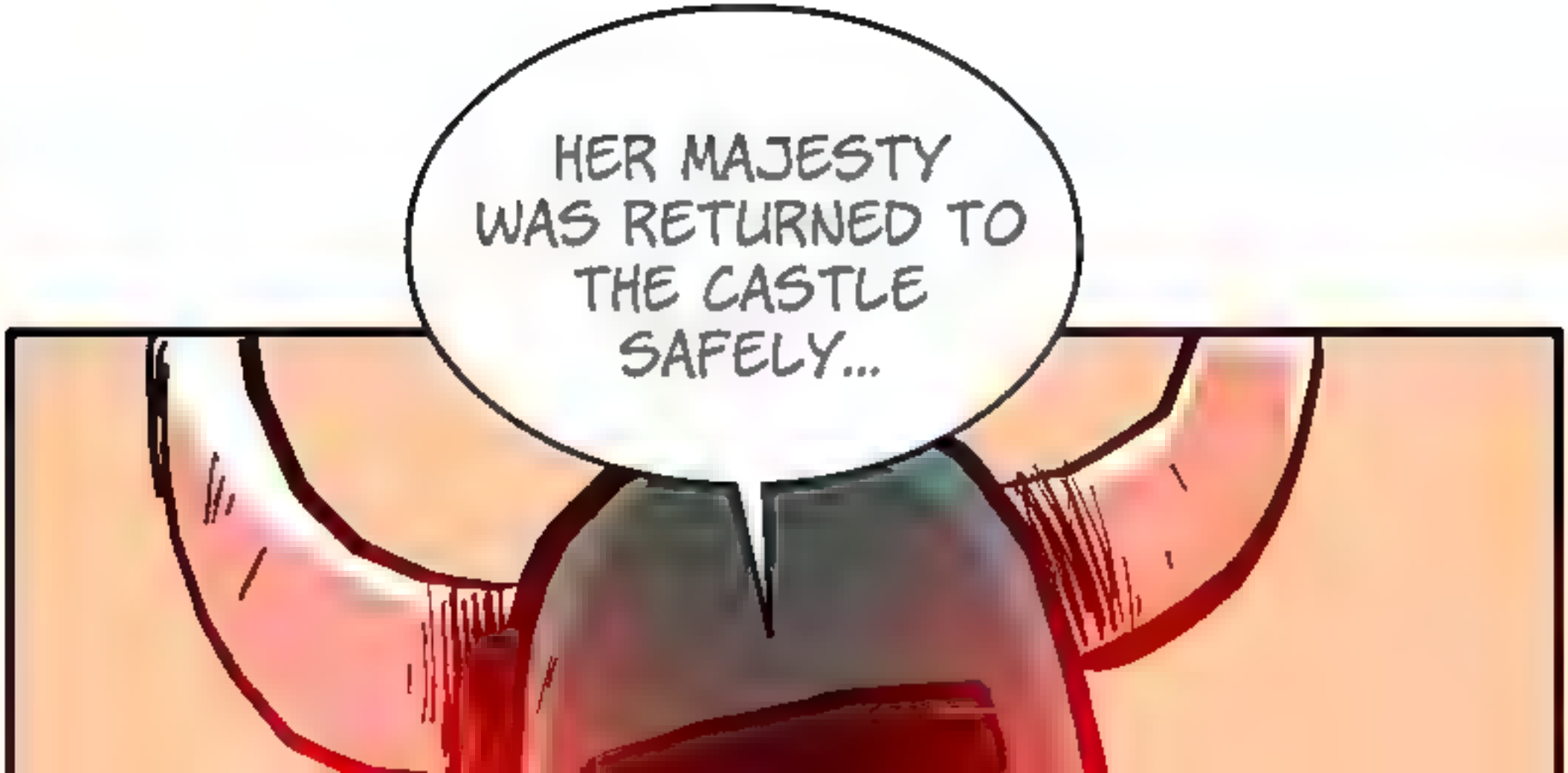


SMG

WELL, WELL...
LOOK WHAT
WE FOUND.

GET UP.
YE ARE UNDER ARREST FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF QUEEN AMELIA.

BUT SHE IS RIGHT—
GASP
WHERE HAS SHE GONE?!


HER MAJESTY WAS RETURNED TO THE CASTLE SAFELY...

AND YE WILL ROT IN A CELL BENEATH HER FEET.

MONTHS LATER

MONTHS LATER...
SHE USED ME AND TURNED ME IN...

I HATE HOW EASILY I FELL FOR IT...
SIGH

AND HOW EVEN NOW, I WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE HER ONE MORE TIME...

TIS WHAT
I DESERVE...
I WAS SO FULL
OF ANGER AFTER MY
FATHER DIED... BUT I
SHOULD NEVER HAVE
JOINED THAT BAND
OF THEIVES.

HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN IN HERE NOW?

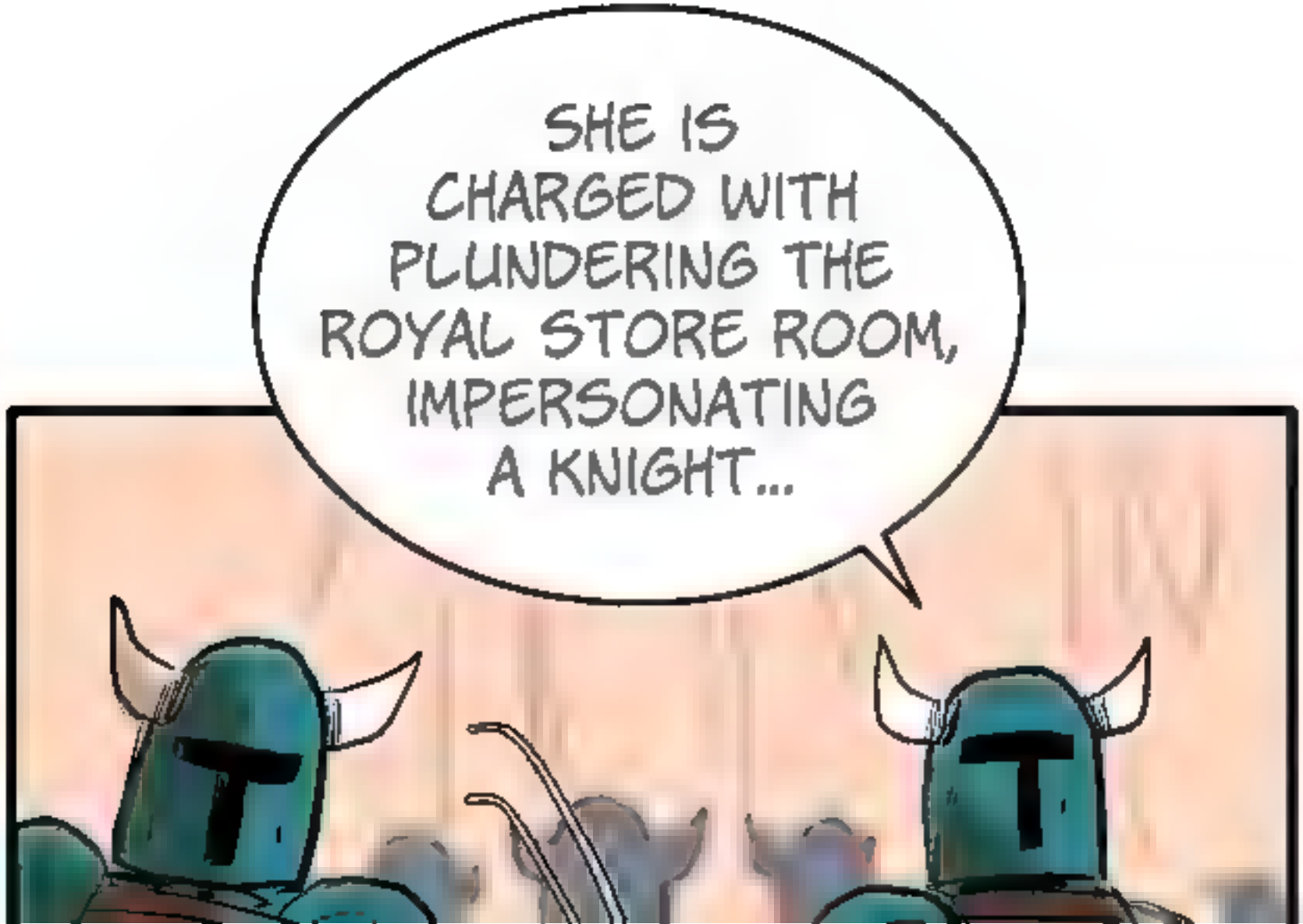
IF I AM TO BE EXECUTED, LET DEATH COME SWIFTLY.

THE DAY HAS COME.
WE ARE HERE TO ESCORT YOU TO THE COURT FOR SENTENCING.

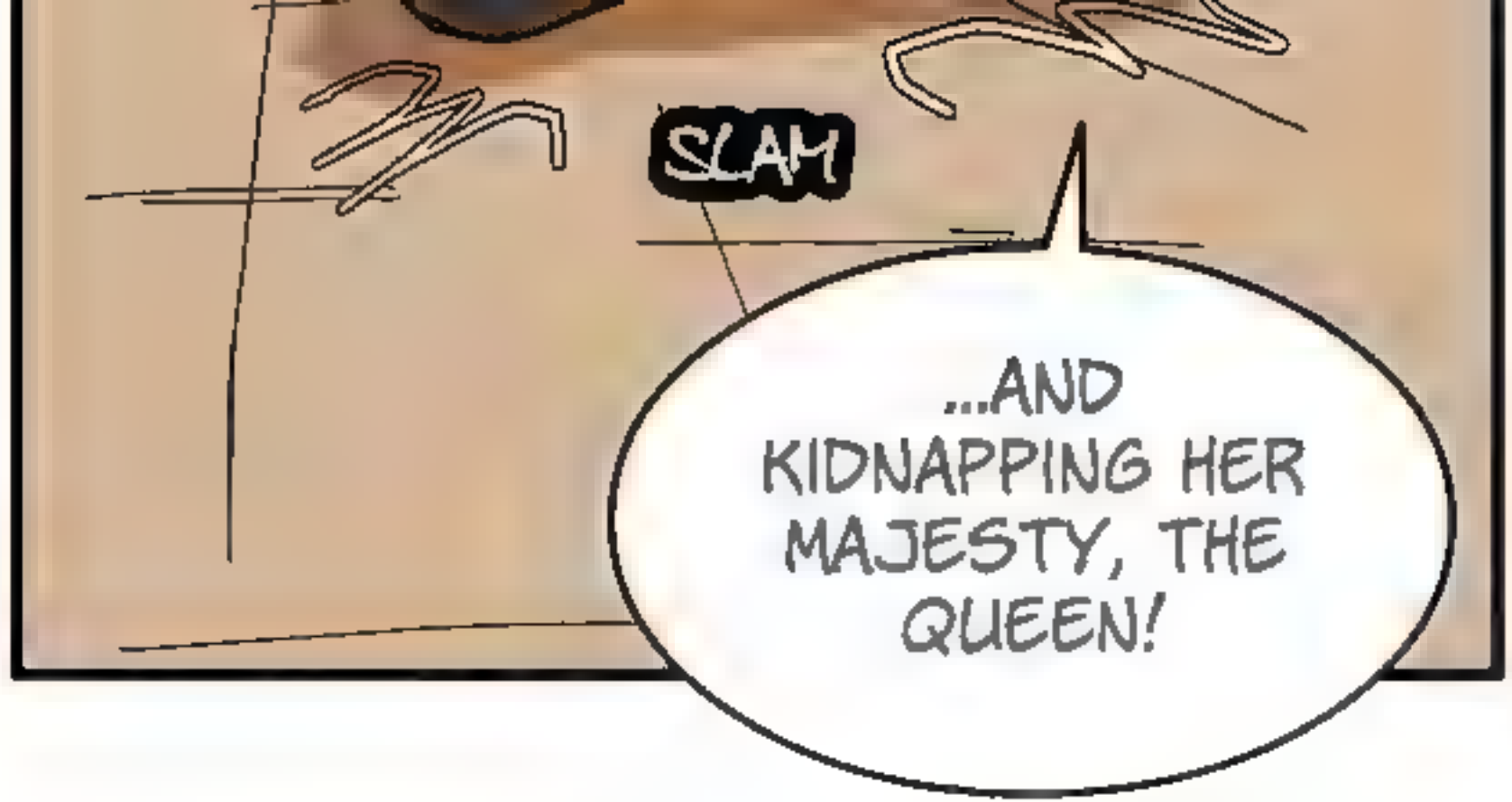
TAK
TAK
THE AIR SMELLS FRESHER HERE... THIS MUST BE THE THRONE ROOM...
TAK

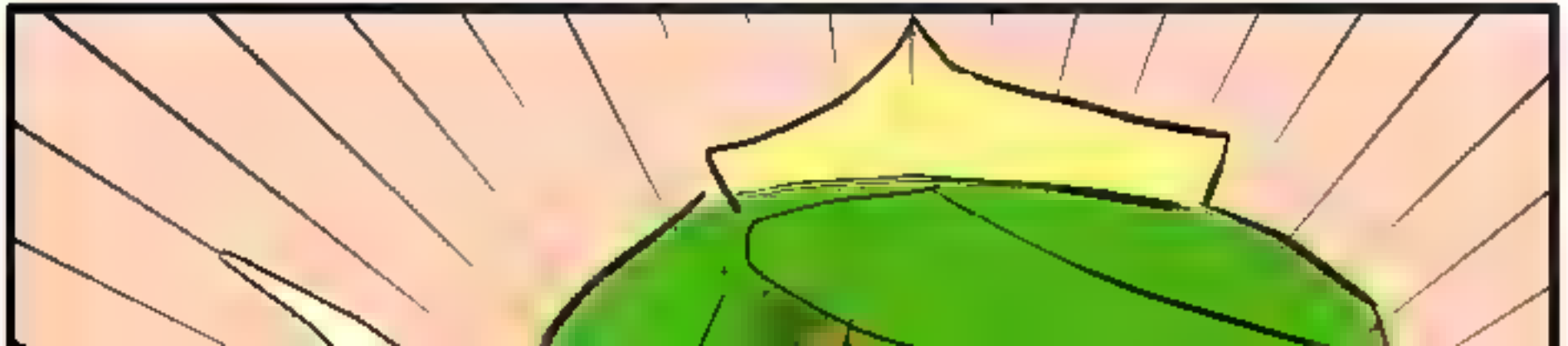
TAK
I WONDER... WILL SHE BE HERE?

YOUR MAJESTY, HERE IS THE NEXT PRISONER TO RECEIVE A SENTENCE.


SHE IS CHARGED WITH PLUNDERING THE ROYAL STORE ROOM, IMPERSONATING A KNIGHT...

TOSS

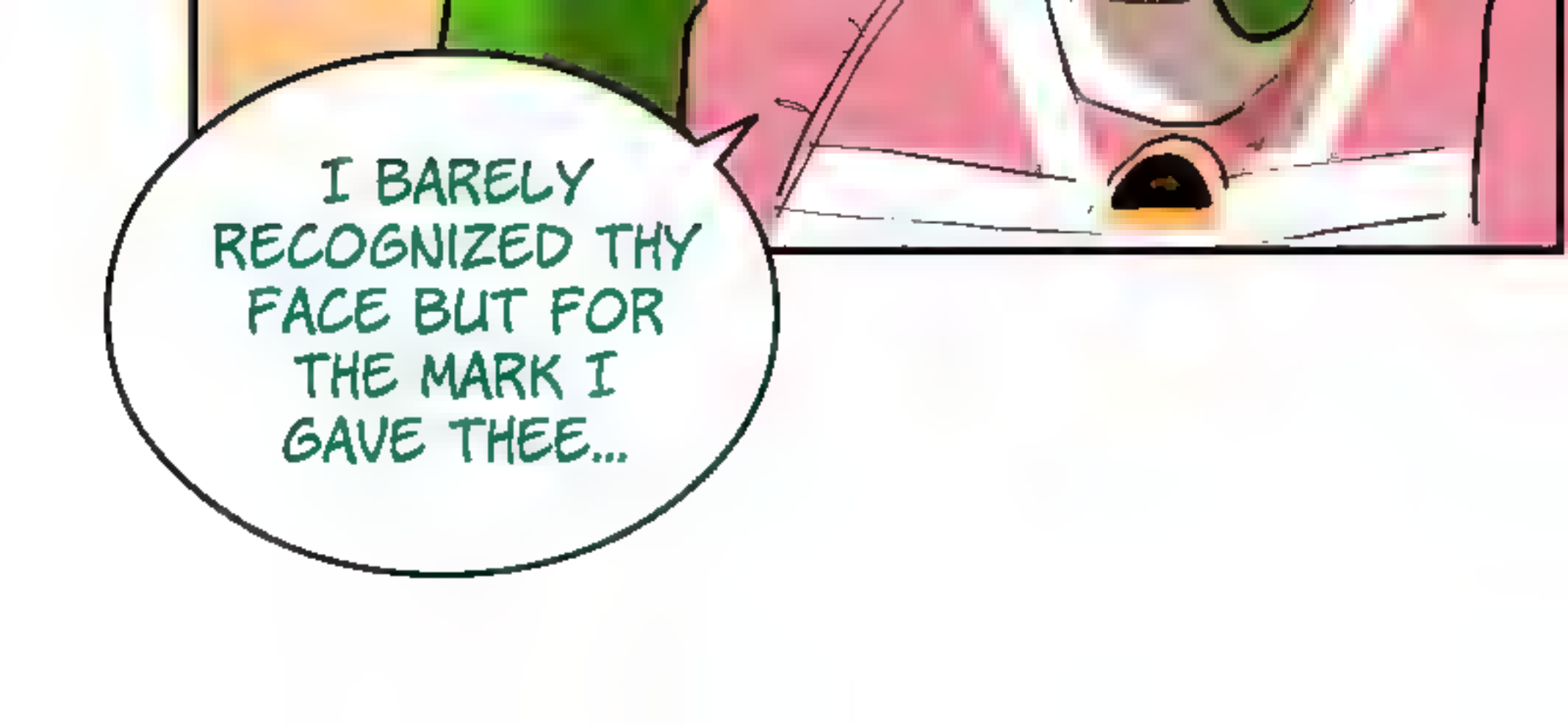

SLAM
...AND KIDNAPPING HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN!

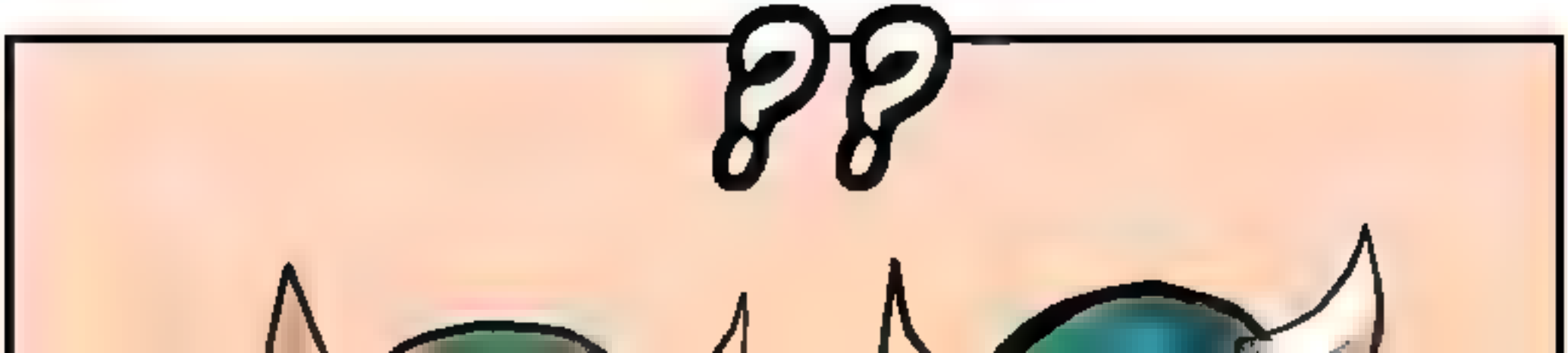


KID-
-NAPPING..!?

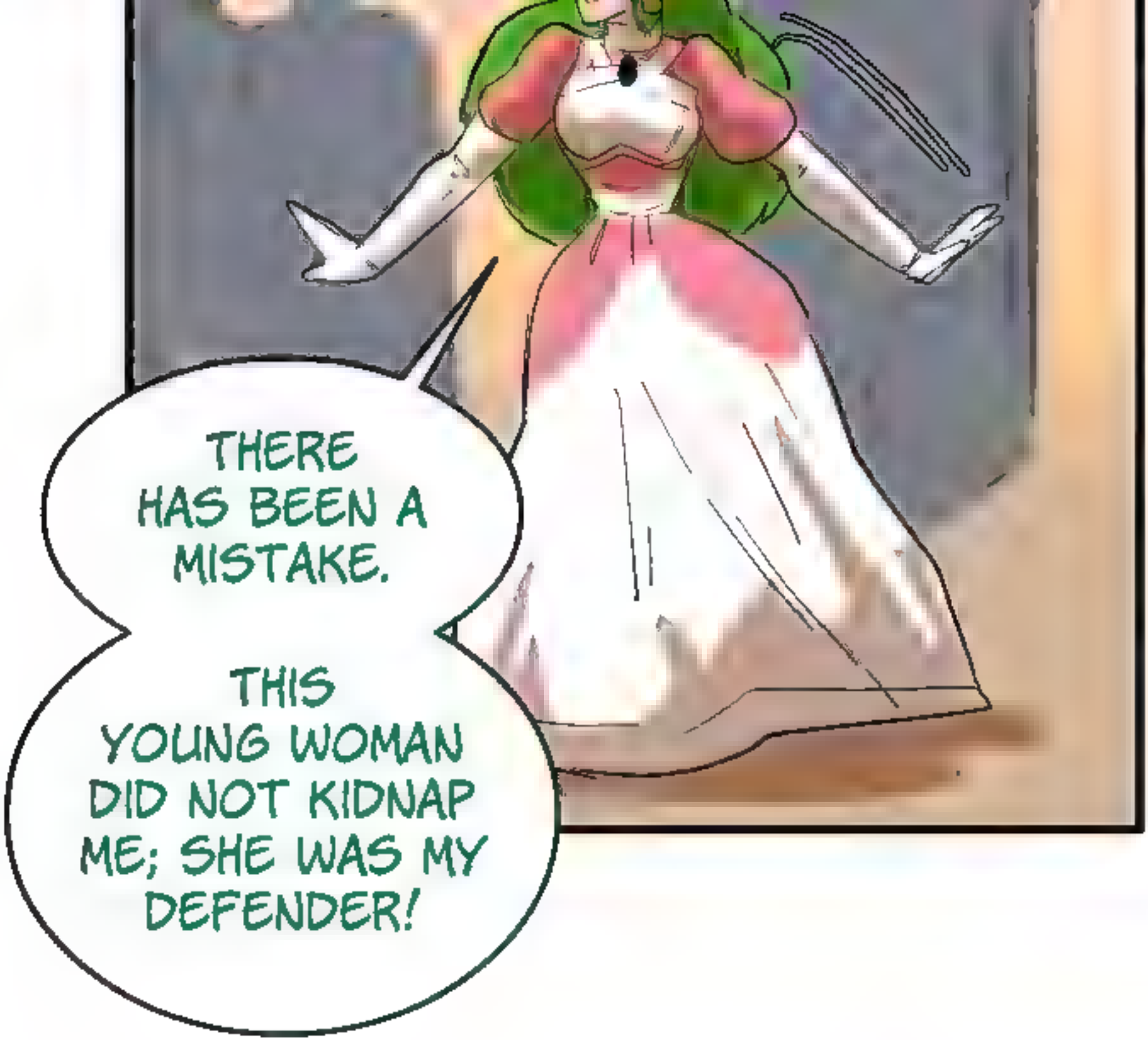
IT
CAN NOT
BE...!

VICTORIA, WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YE...?


I BARELY RECOGNIZED THY FACE BUT FOR THE MARK I GAVE THEE...

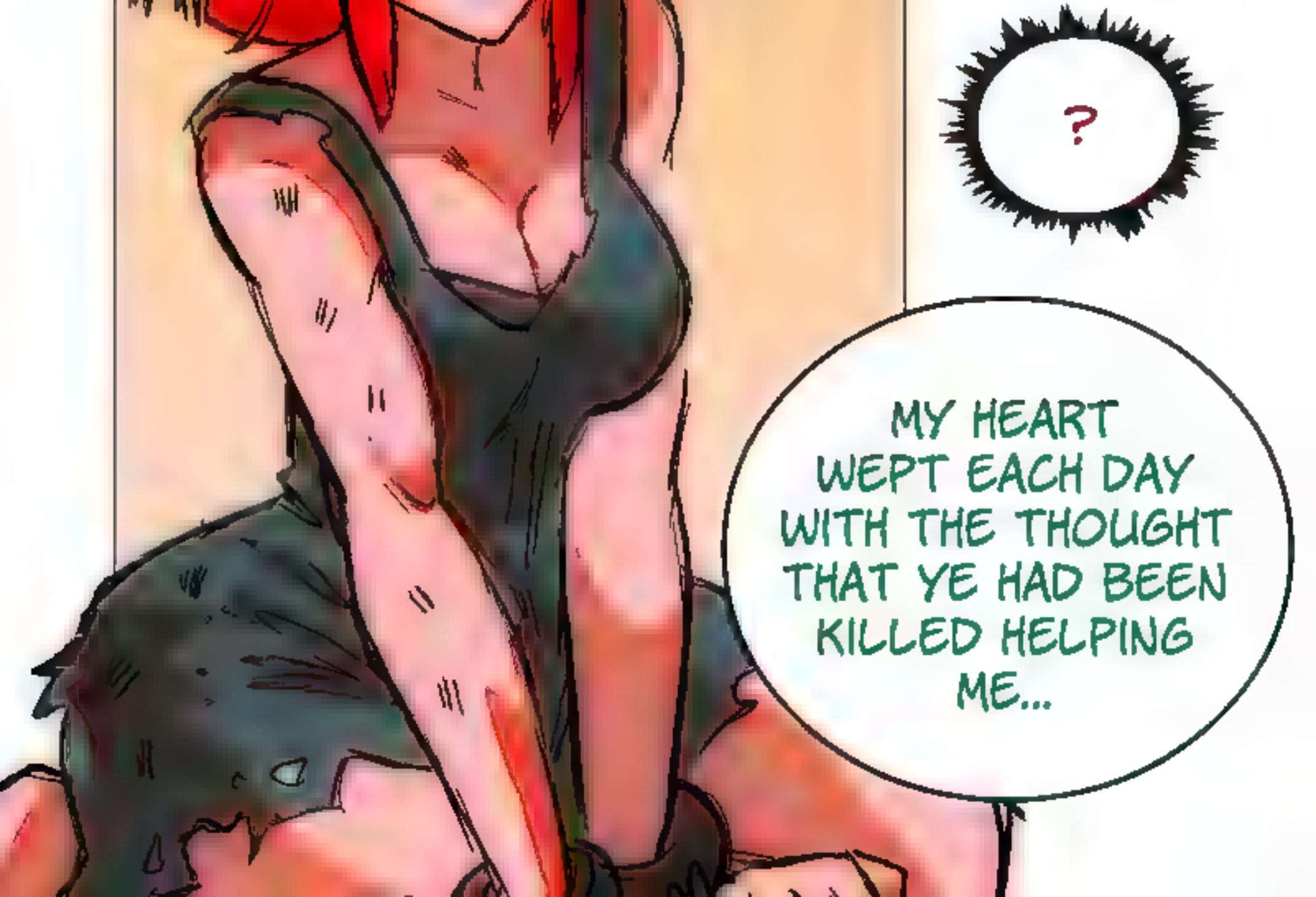


THERE WILL BE NO SENTENCE!

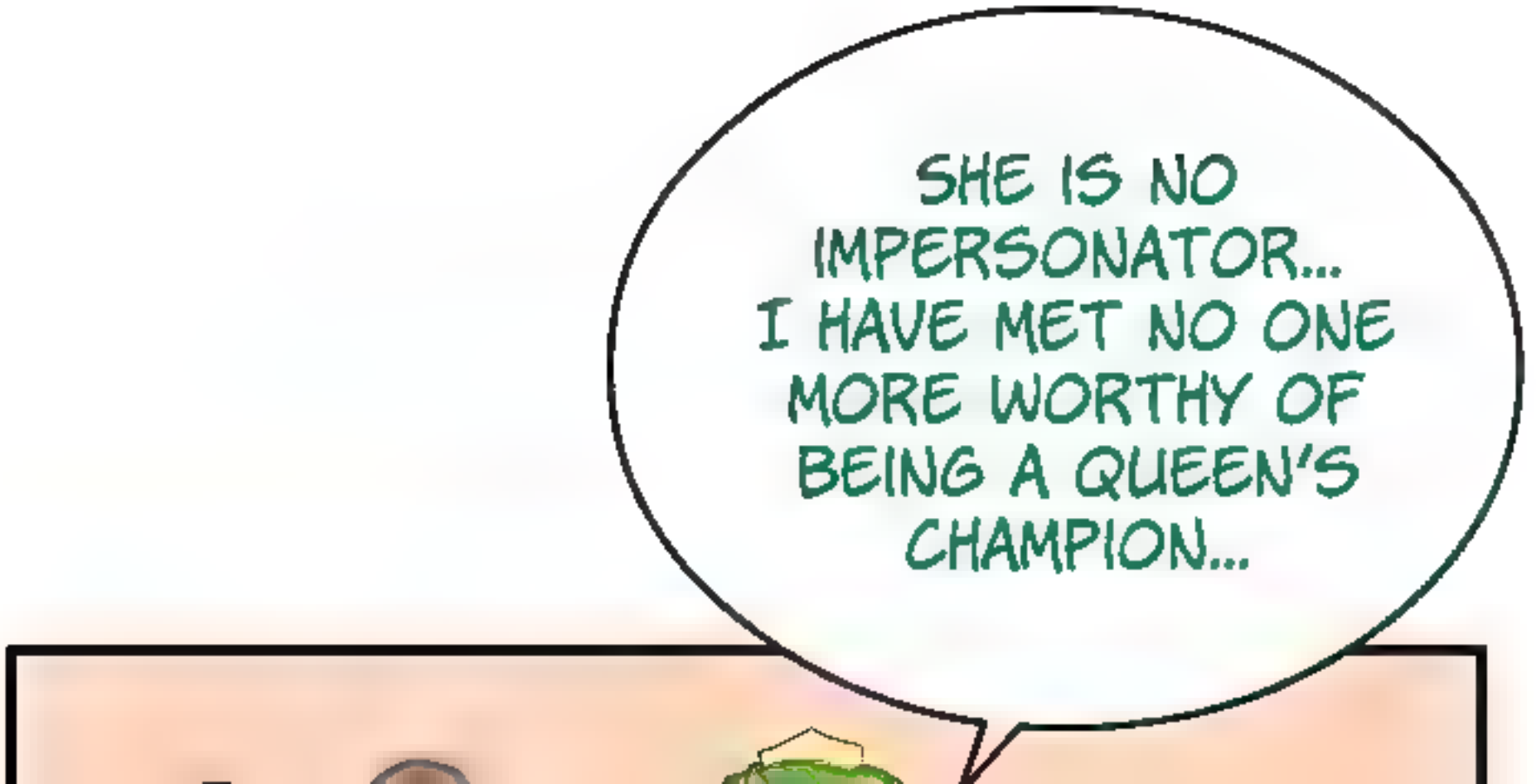

THERE HAS BEEN A MISTAKE.
THIS YOUNG WOMAN DID NOT KIDNAP ME; SHE WAS MY DEFENDER!

IT IS
BECAUSE OF
HER BRAVERY AND
SERVICE THAT OUR
COUNTRY NOW
ENJOYS PEACE
AND PROSPERITY
THESE PAST FEW
MONTHS.

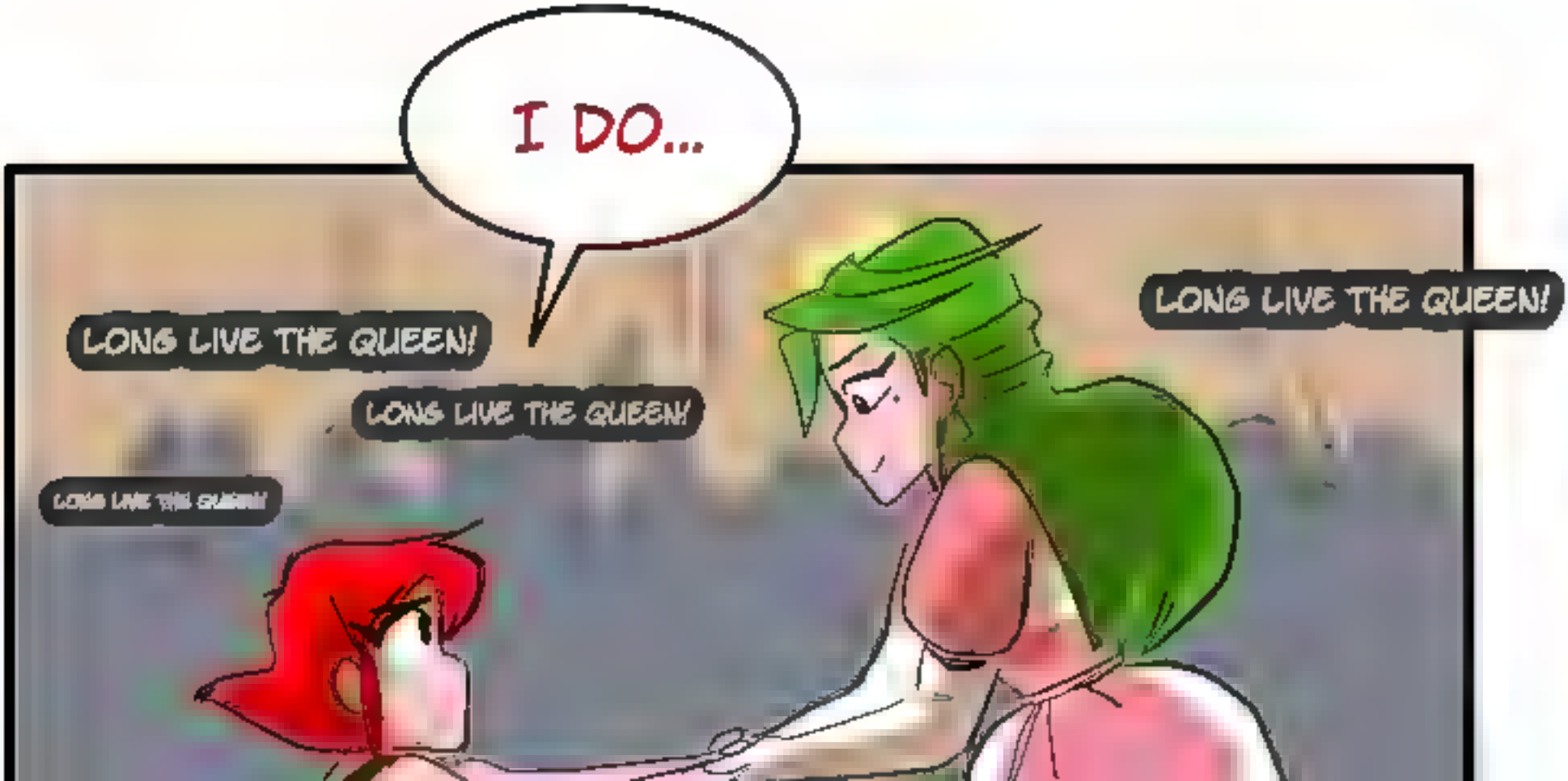
VICTORIA,
I WAS TOLD
YE HAD DIED...


?
MY HEART WEPT EACH DAY WITH THE THOUGHT THAT YE HAD BEEN KILLED HELPING ME...

I HAD
100 WAGONS
OF FOOD, SUPPLIES
AND TREASURE SENT
TO THY TOWN IN
THY HONOUR!

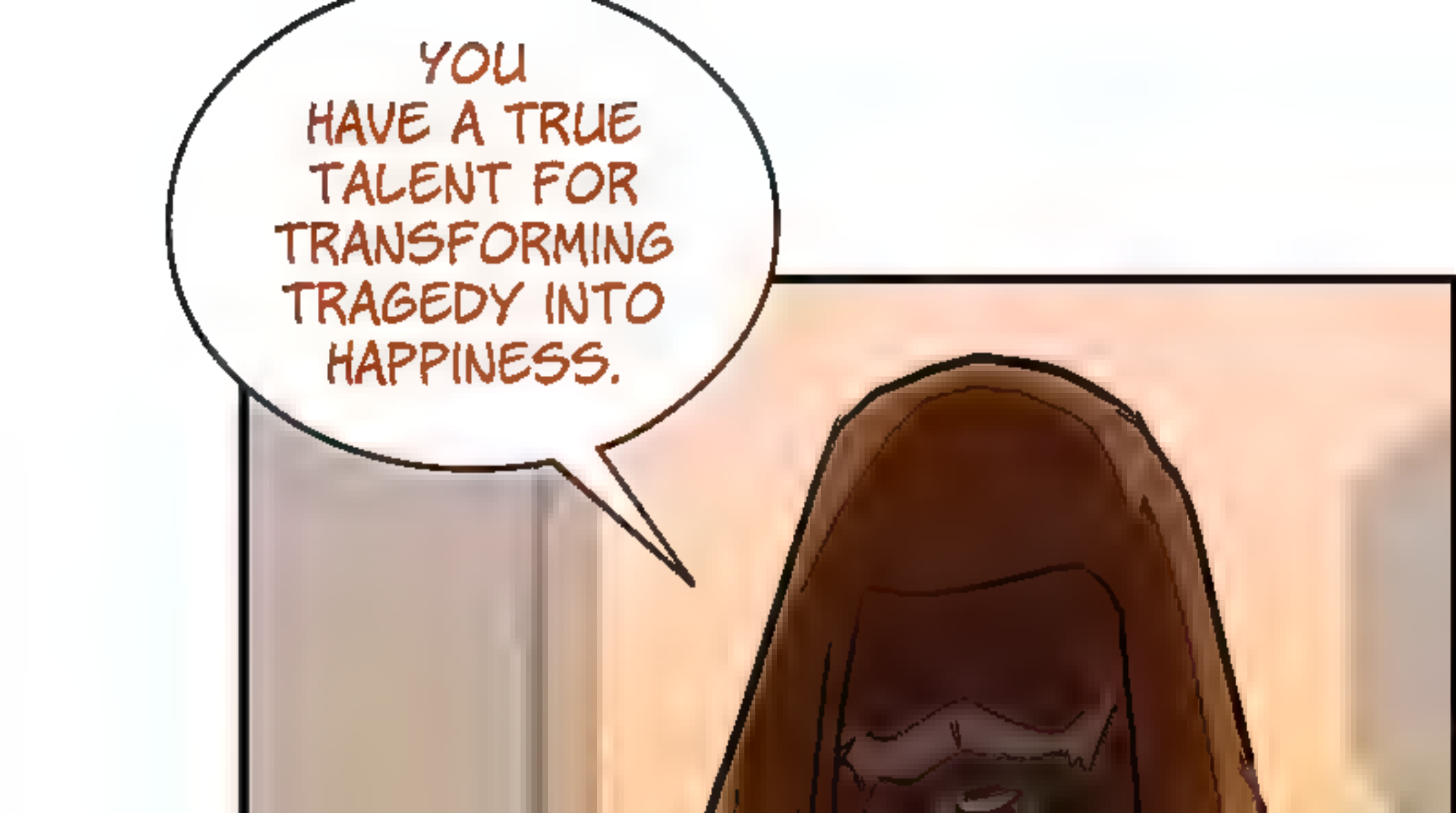

SHE IS NO IMPERSONATOR... I HAVE MET NO ONE MORE WORTHY OF BEING A QUEEN'S CHAMPION...

I WOULD HAVE HER KNIGHTED AND BY MY SIDE IN A HEARTBEAT... IF SHE ACCEPTS.
YOUR MAJESTY...

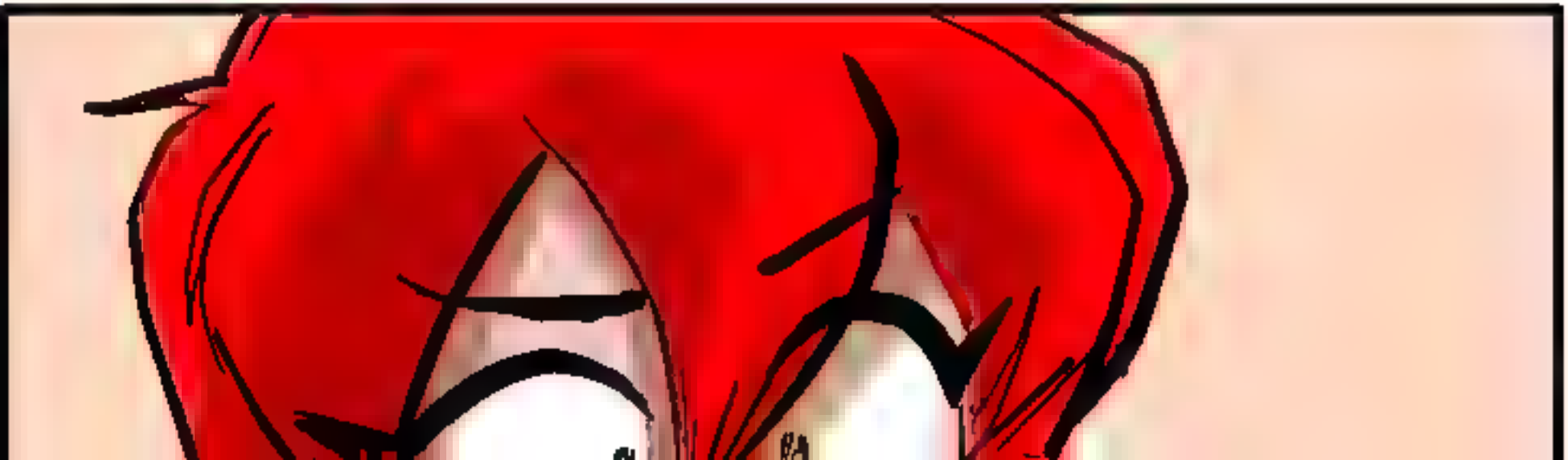

I DO...
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!

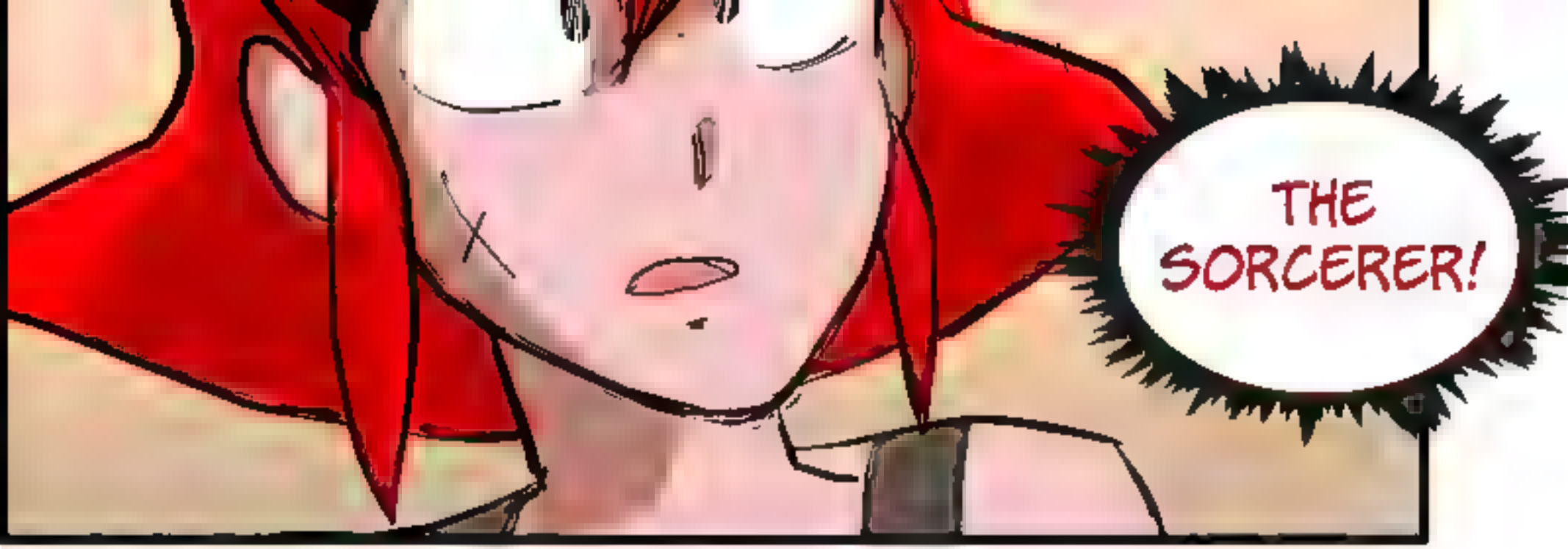
CLAP

WELL DONE, YOUR MAJESTY.


YOU HAVE A TRUE TALENT FOR TRANSFORMING TRAGEDY INTO HAPPINESS.

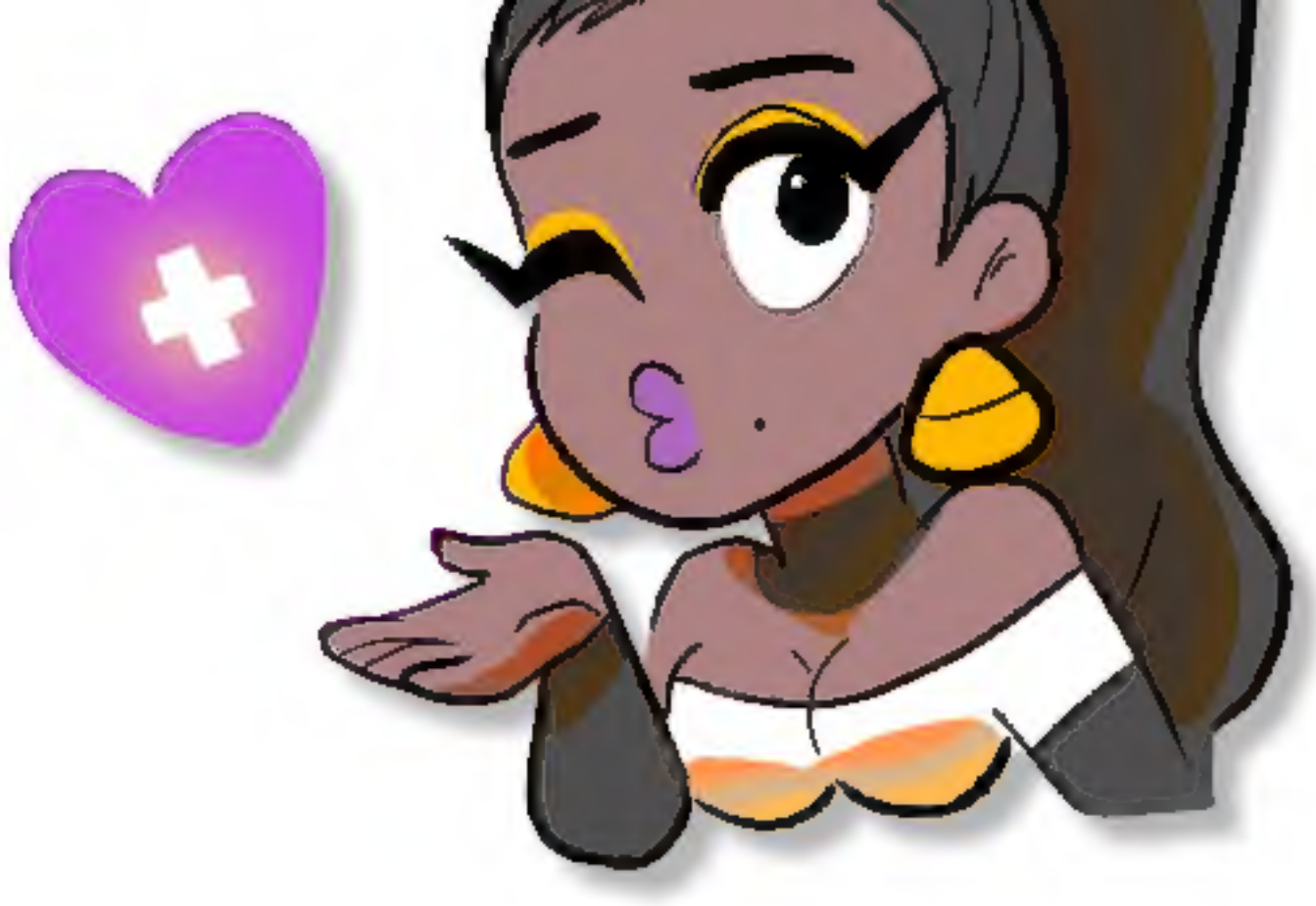
TRUST ME, VICTORIA... LIFE AFTER IMPRISONMENT IS SO MUCH MORE REWARDING.




THE SORCERER!

ROOM of

UPDATES EVERY MONDAY

HEY SWEETIE!
BEFORE YOU GO,
MAKE SURE TO GIVE US A
LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON
OUR INSTAGRAM /TWITTER:

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